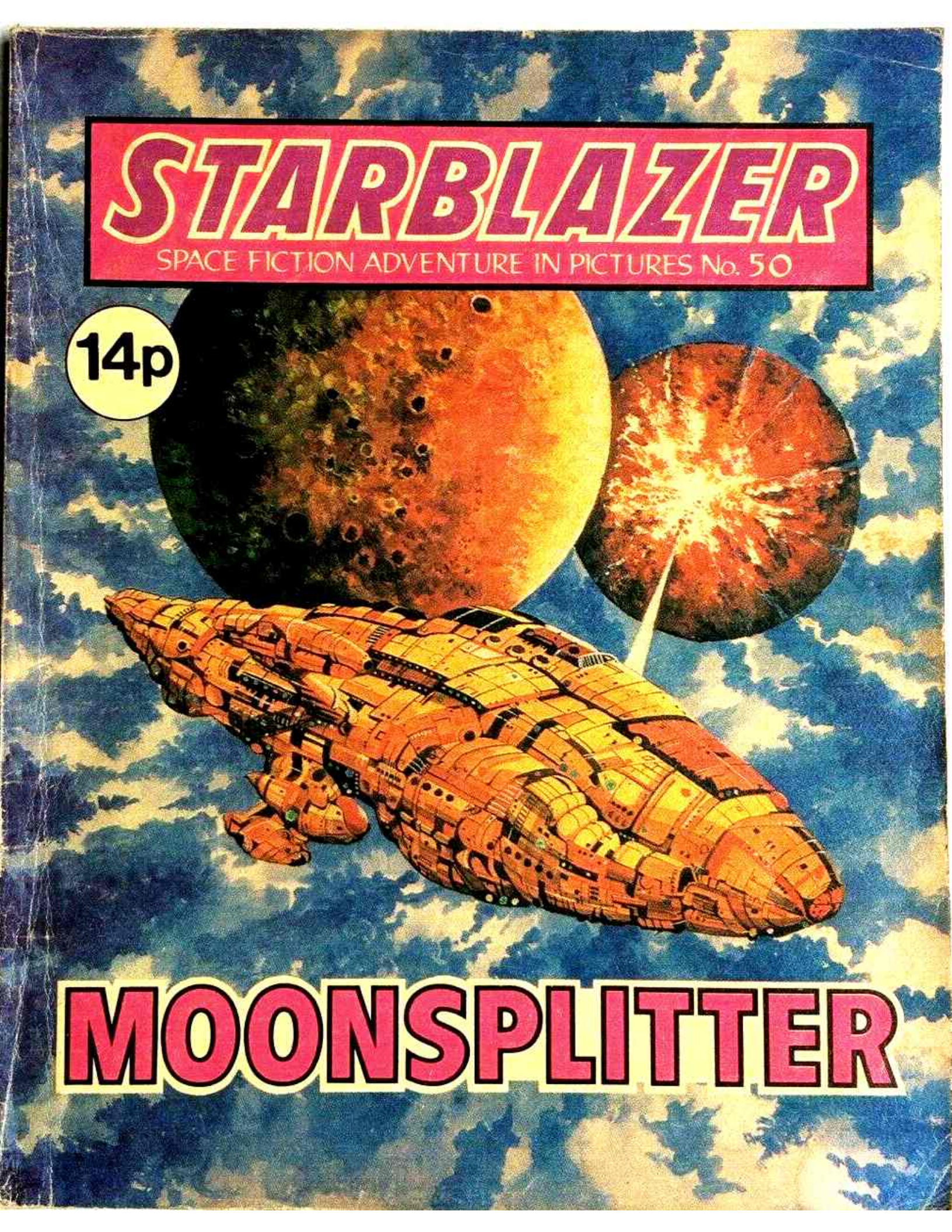
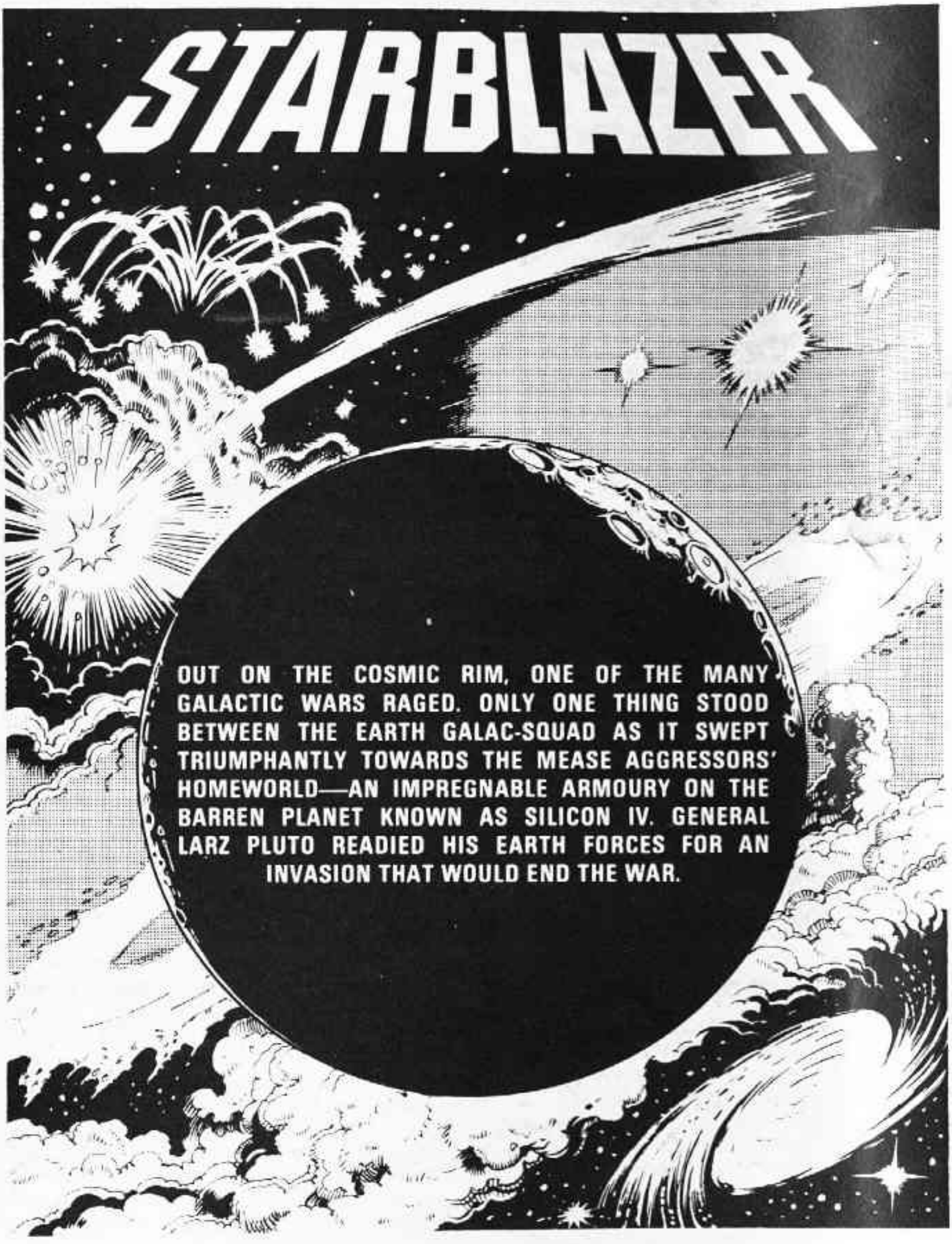
STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 50

14p

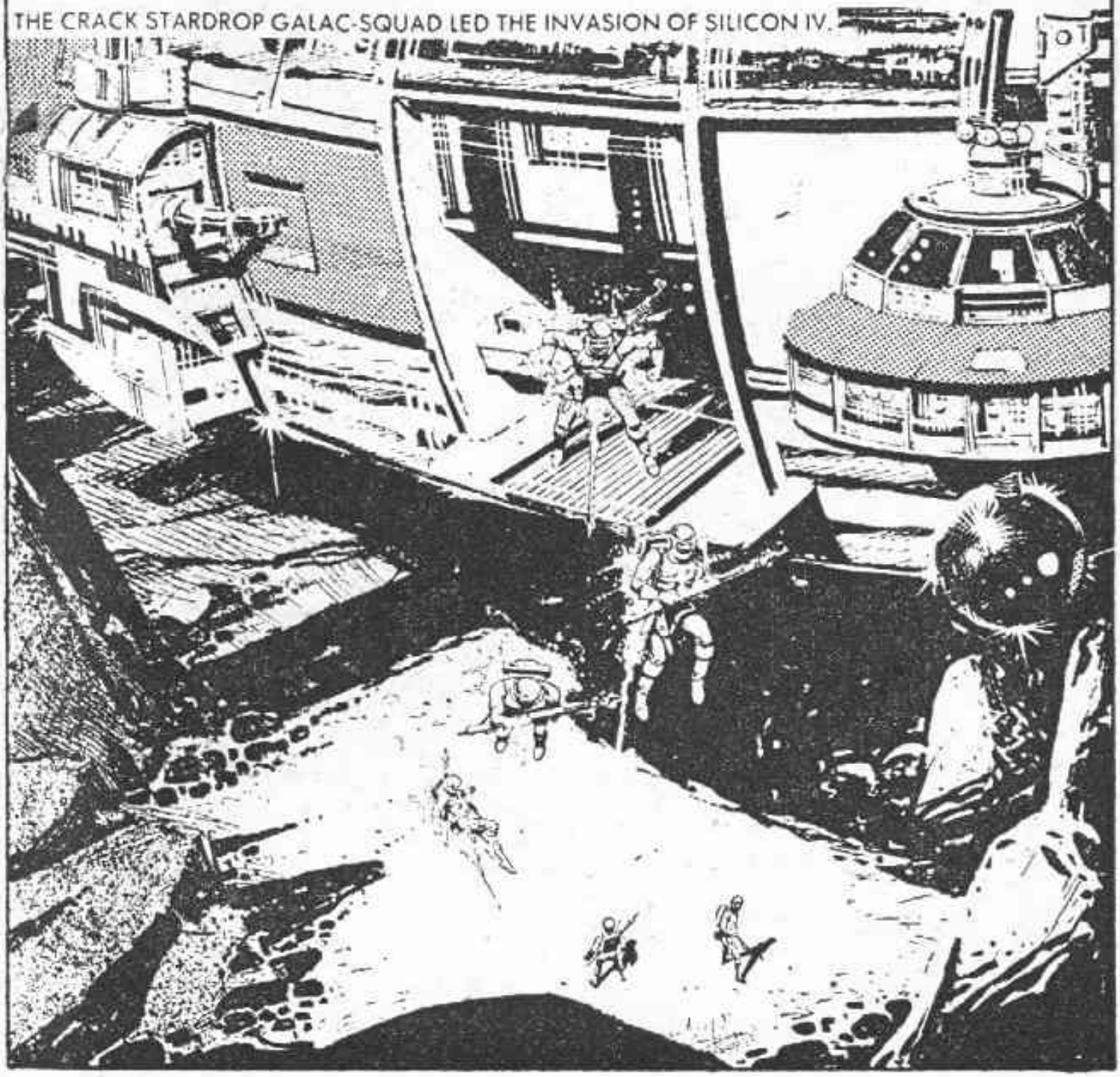


MOONSPLITTER


STARBLAZER
OUT ON THE COSMIC RIM, ONE OF THE MANY GALACTIC WARS RAGED. ONLY ONE THING STOOD BETWEEN THE EARTH GALAC-SQUAD AS IT SWEPT TRIUMPHANTLY TOWARDS THE MEASE AGGRESSORS' HOMEWORLD—AN IMPREGNABLE ARMOURY ON THE BARREN PLANET KNOWN AS SILICON IV. GENERAL LARZ PLUTO READIED HIS EARTH FORCES FOR AN INVASION THAT WOULD END THE WAR.

eldubya/iodinepr

MOONSPLITTER



THE GALAC-SQUAD DUG IN TO FORM AN OFFENSIVE PERIMETER ROUND THE MEASE BASE.
CONCENTRATE ON SECTOR 27—DESTROY.
GENERAL LARZ PLUTO WAS IN COMMAND.
SECTOR 7No. 2 . . . INCREASE ELEVATION . . .

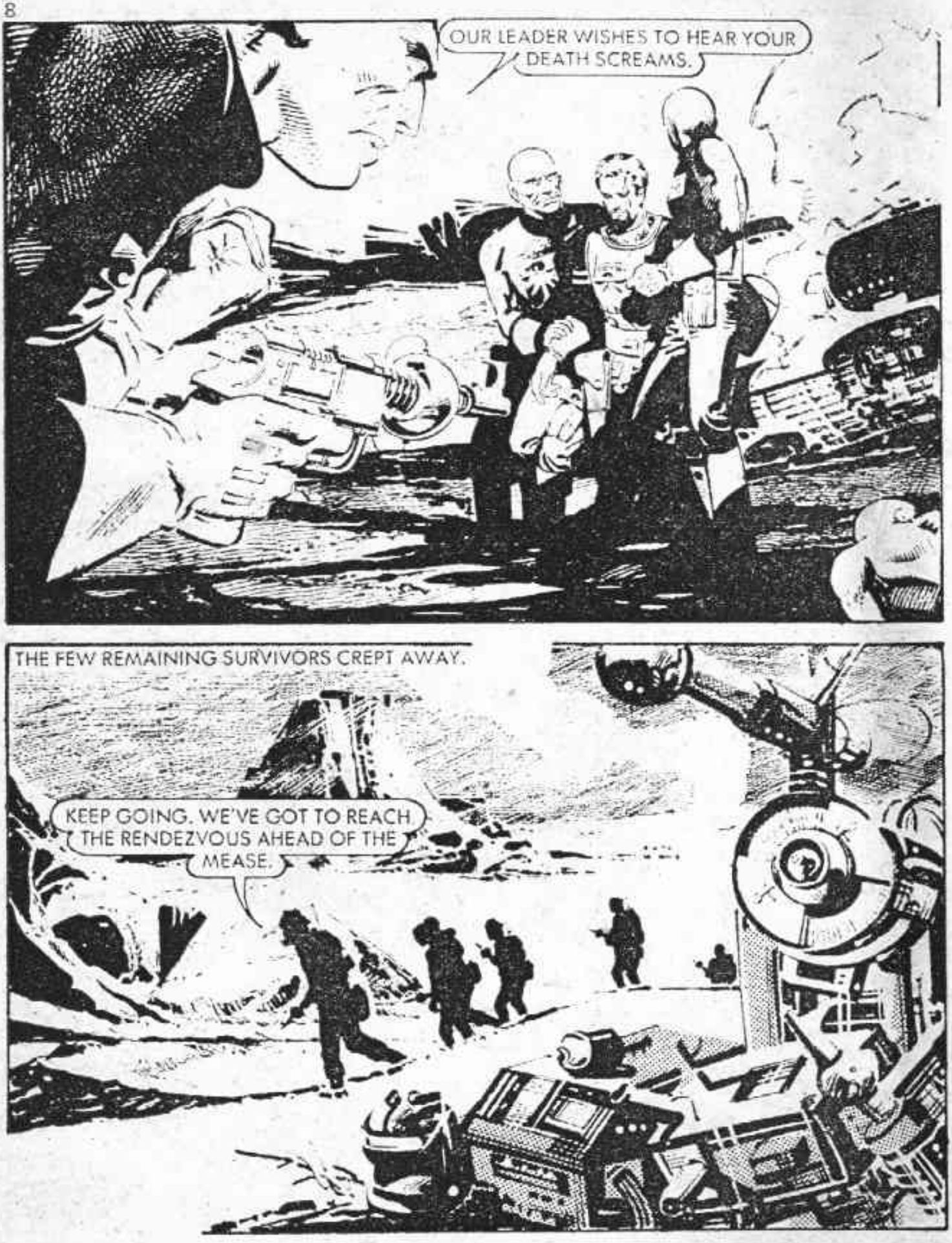
THERE'S A GAP IN THE FORCEFIELD. MAINTAIN FIRE . . . TROOPERS ADVANCE.

NO SIGN OF THE MEASE.

LOOK OUT! THE MEASE ARE . . .
IT'S A TRAP! THE GAP IS CLOSING.

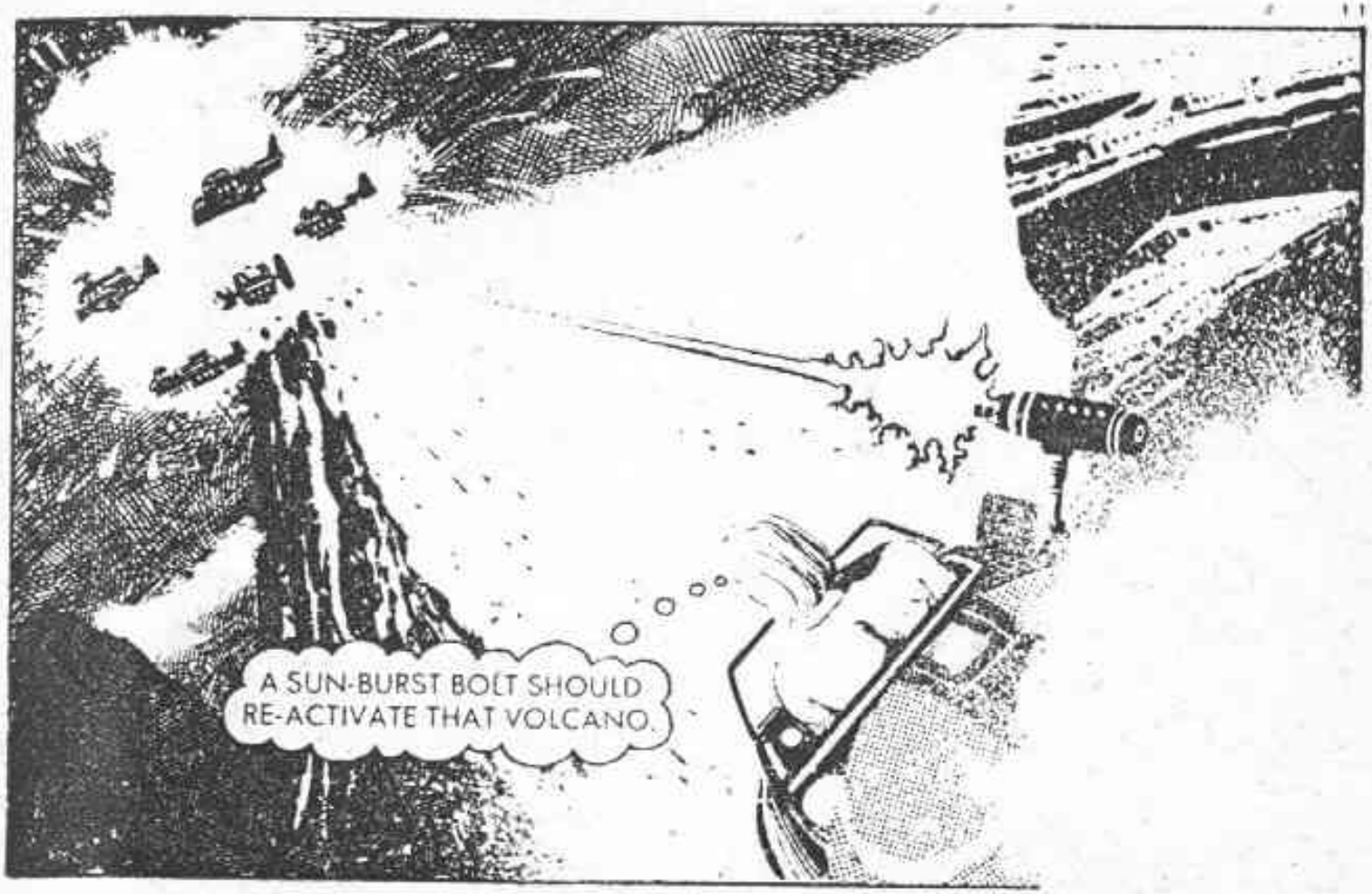
CUT THEM DOWN, THEY ARE NOT FIT TO BE TAKEN CAPTIVE!

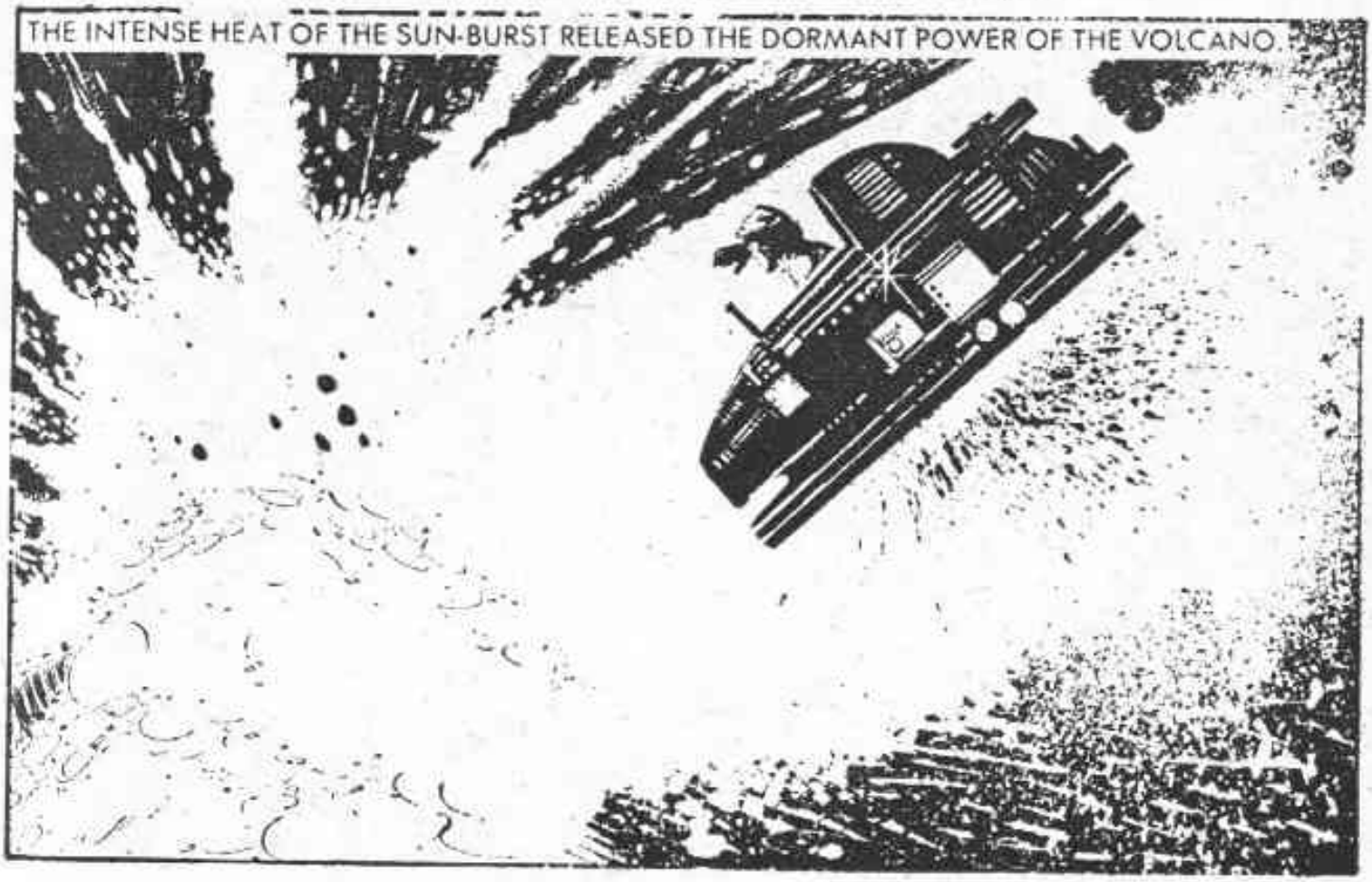
THE MEASE ARE TOO STRONG. WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF RANGE.
THE SHATTERED REMNANTS TRIED TO FIGHT OUT OF THE TRAP.
BUT THEY WERE CORNERED—
TAKE HIM ALIVE.

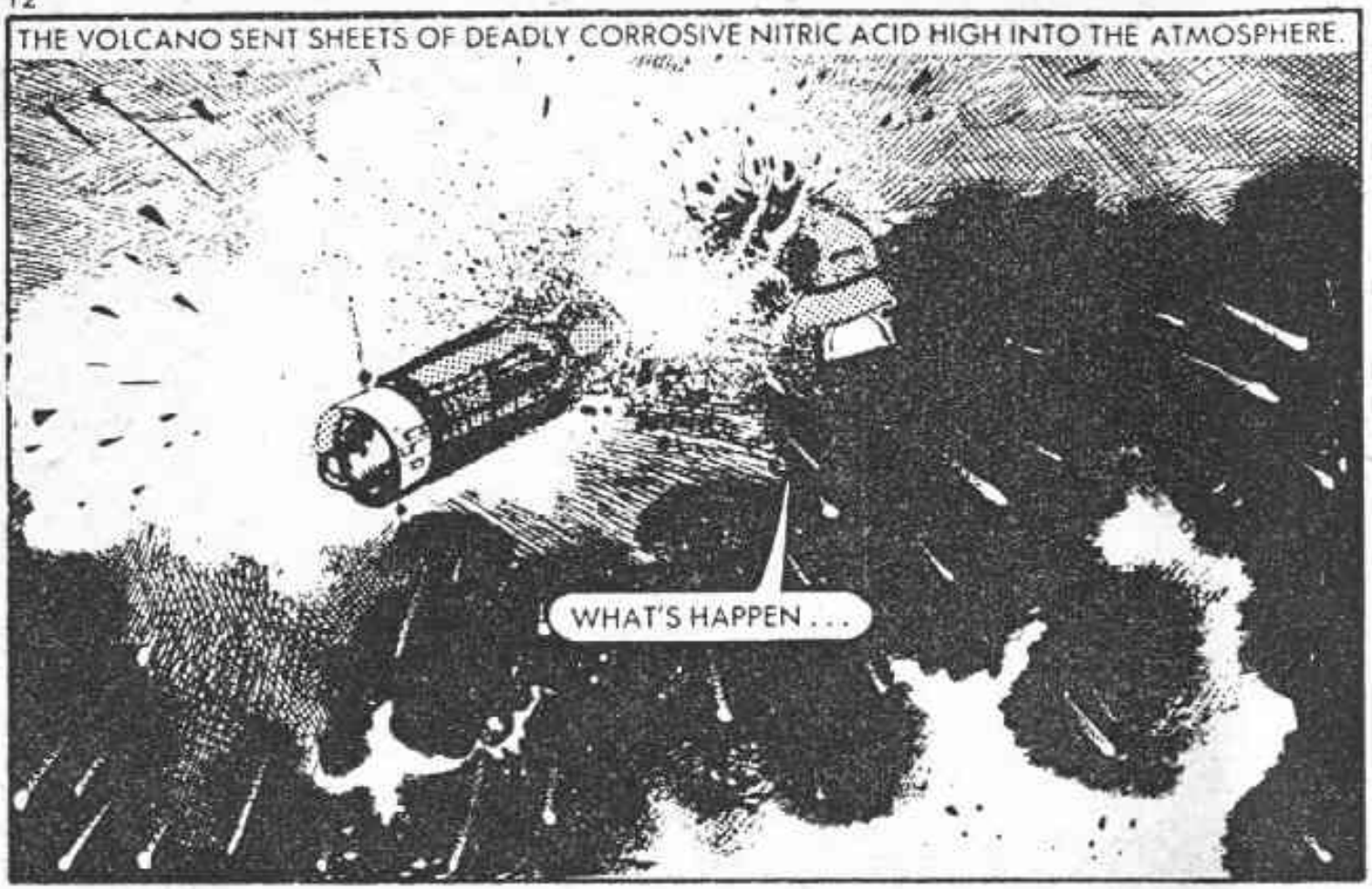

OUR LEADER WISHES TO HEAR YOUR DEATH SCREAMS.
THE FEW REMAINING SURVIVORS CREPT AWAY.
KEEP GOING. WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE RENDEZVOUS AHEAD OF THE MEASE.

THE MEASE ARE COMING OUT IN FORCE.
SOMETHING'S CUT US OFF. WE'RE TRAPPED!
NO—IT'S ONE OF OURS.

IT WAS A FIGHTING SCIENTIST VEHICLE. FI-SCI WERE A GROUP OF MEN WITH SPECIAL QUALITIES. THEY HAD THE BRAINS TO INVENT AND DEVELOP NEW WEAPONS, AND USED THEM IN COMBAT.
MY NAME IS HADRON HALLEY. A RESCUE SHIP IS JUST OVER THE NEXT RISE. I'LL COVER YOUR RETREAT.
WHAT GOOD CAN ONE MAN DO?
DON'T FORGET HE'S FROM FI-SCI.

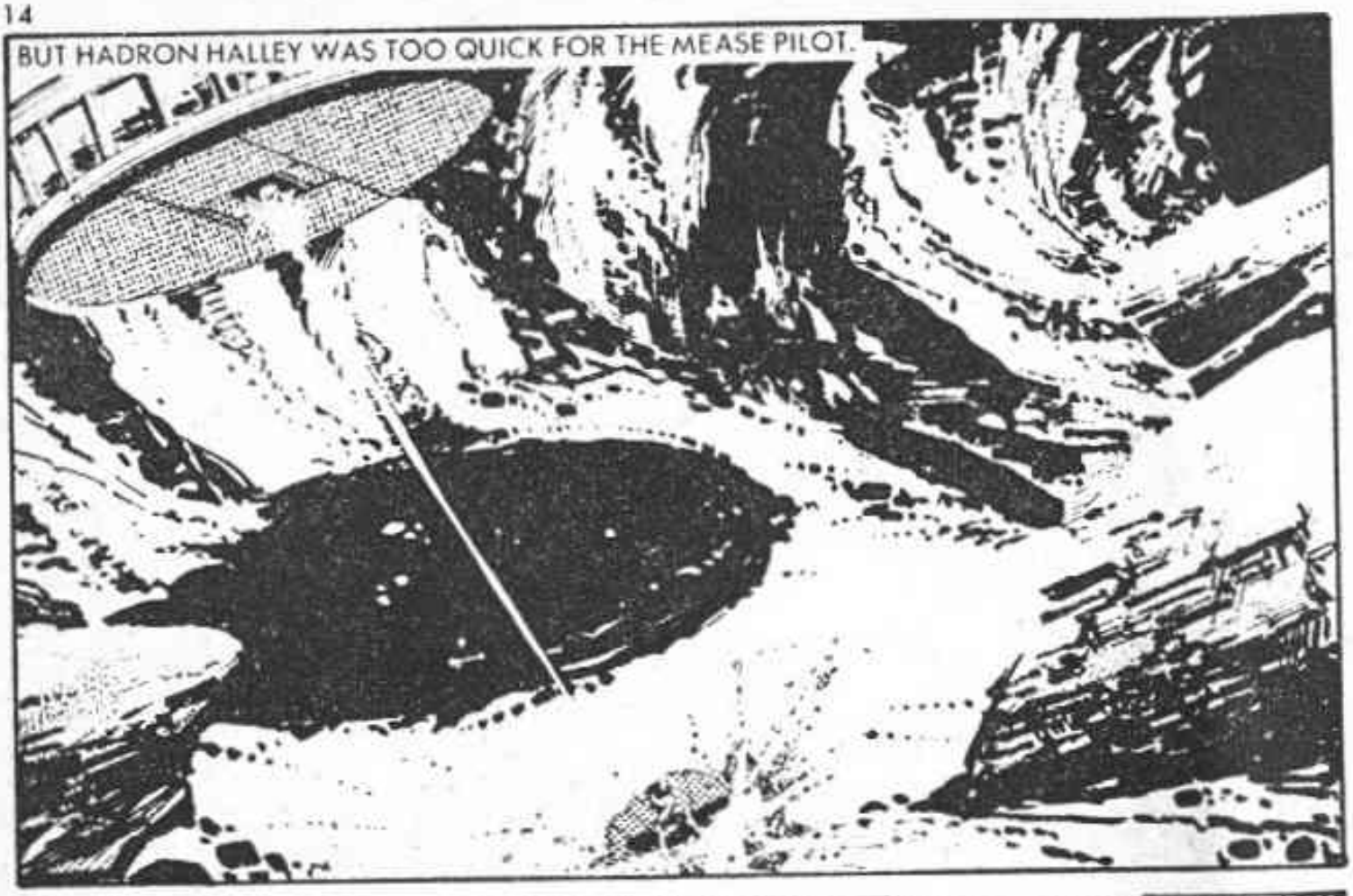

A SUN-BURST BOLT SHOULD RE-ACTIVATE THAT VOLCANO.

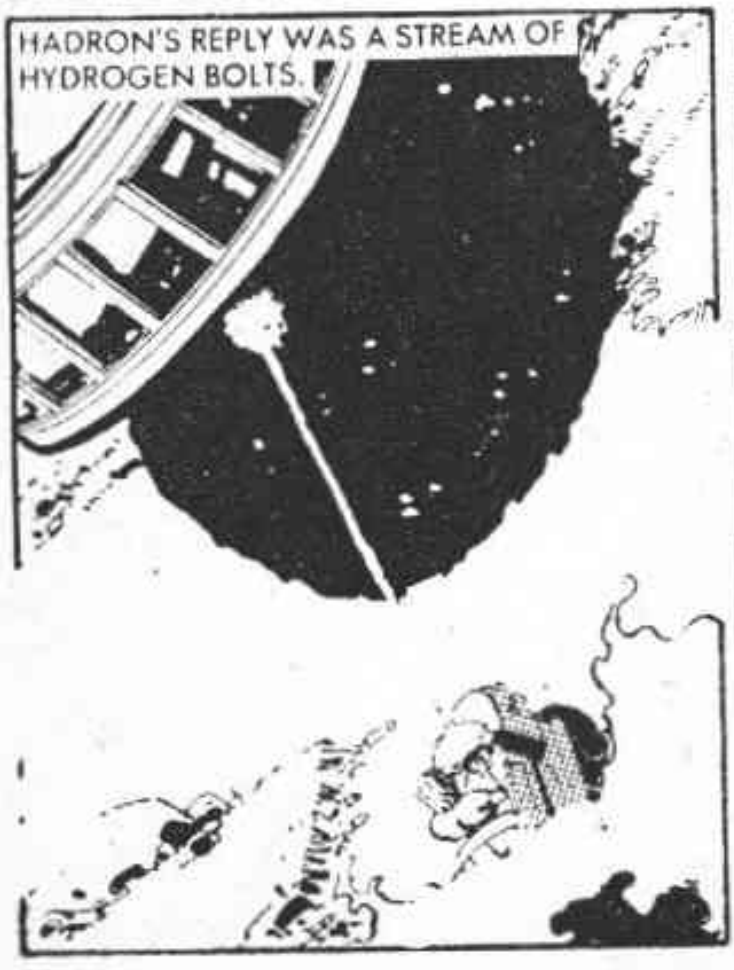

THE INTENSE HEAT OF THE SUN-BURST RELEASED THE DORMANT POWER OF THE VOLCANO.


THE VOLCANO SENT SHEETS OF DEADLY CORROSIVE NITRIC ACID HIGH INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.
WHAT'S HAPPEN . . .

ACID BURNED HOLES IN THE SPACESHIP'S FABRIC, AND RAPID DE-PRESSURISATION CAUSED HAVOC.

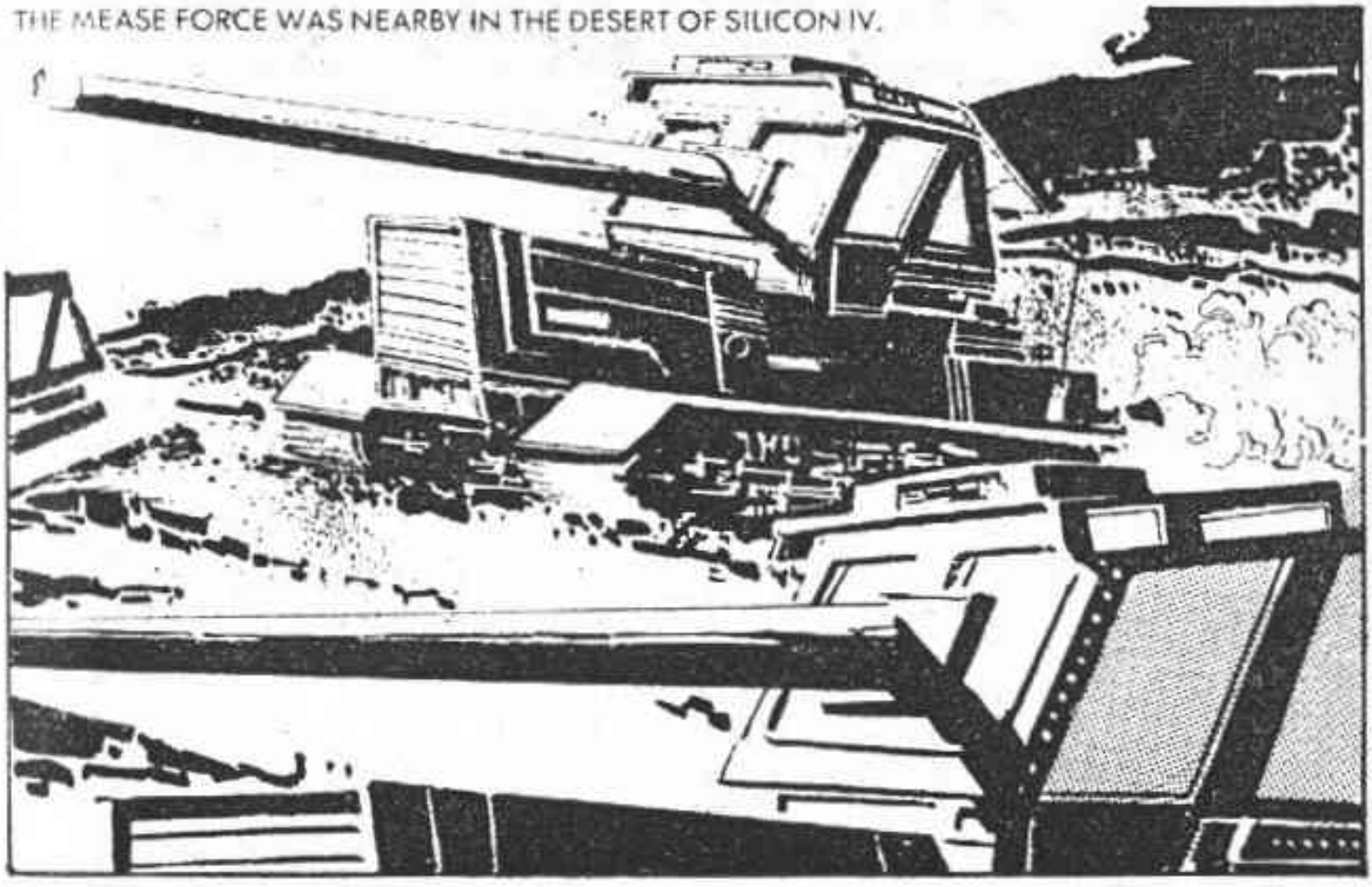
BUT ANOTHER MEASE CRAFT SWOOPED DOWN.
ENEMY SIGHTED . . . I WILL DESTROY.
PREPARE TO BE VAPOURISED TERRAN SCUM!


BUT HADRON HALLEY WAS TOO QUICK FOR THE MEASE PILOT.

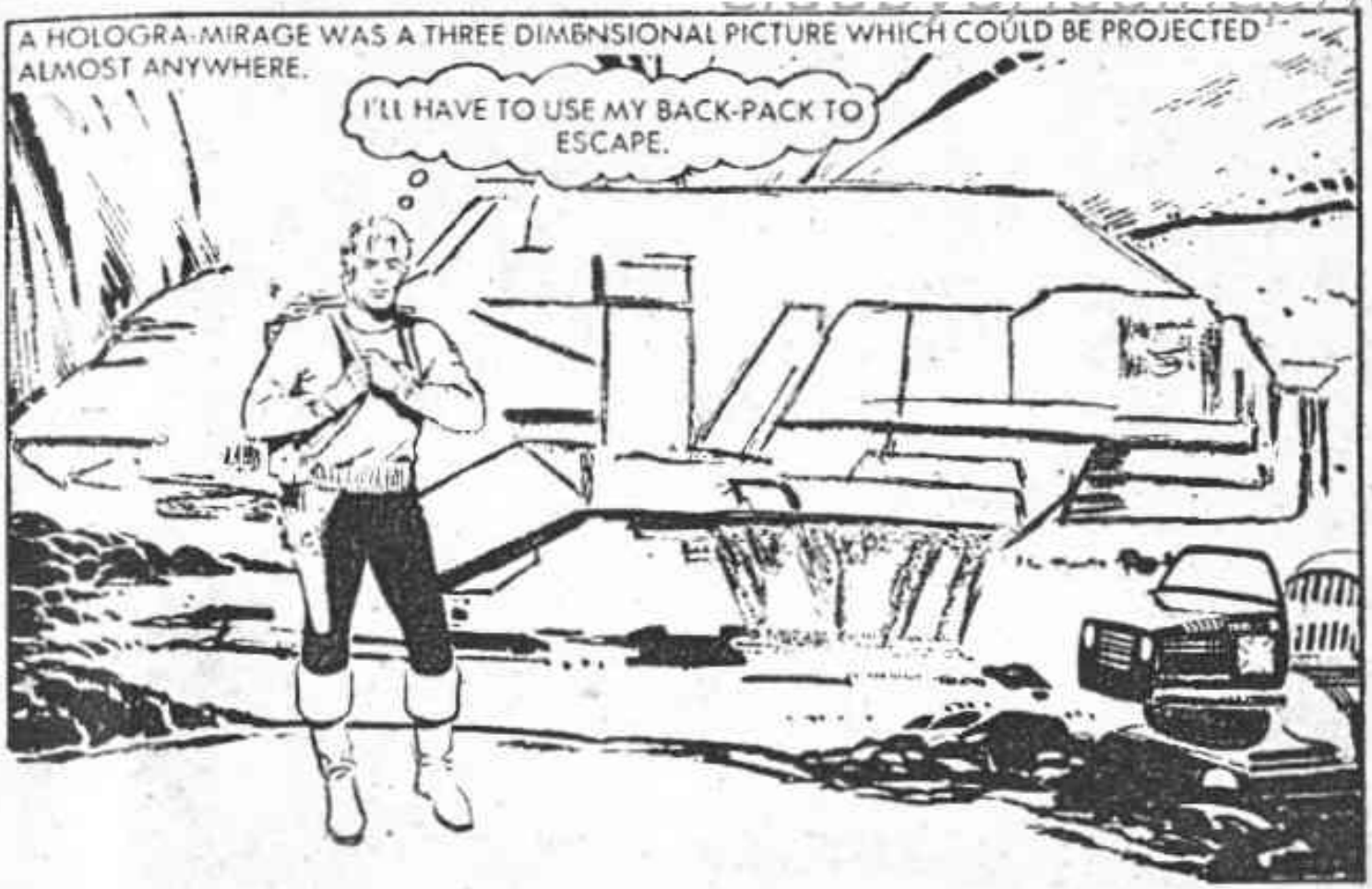

HADRON'S REPLY WAS A STREAM OF HYDROGEN BOLTS.

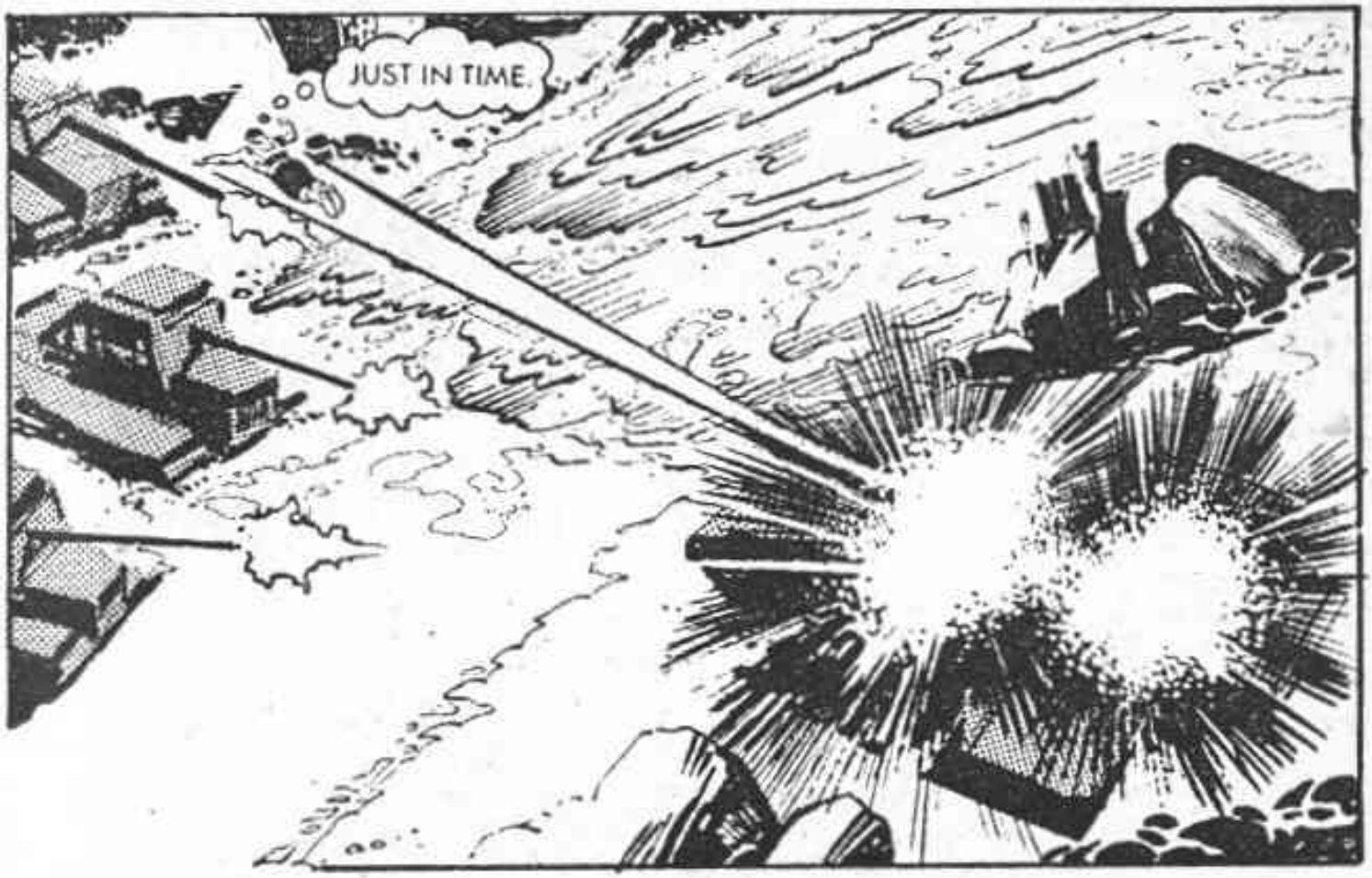
THE STREAM OF DEADLY BOLTS INSTANTLY FROZE EVERYTHING IN THE MEASE CRAFT . . .

THE MEASE FORCE WAS NEARBY IN THE DESERT OF SILICON IV.



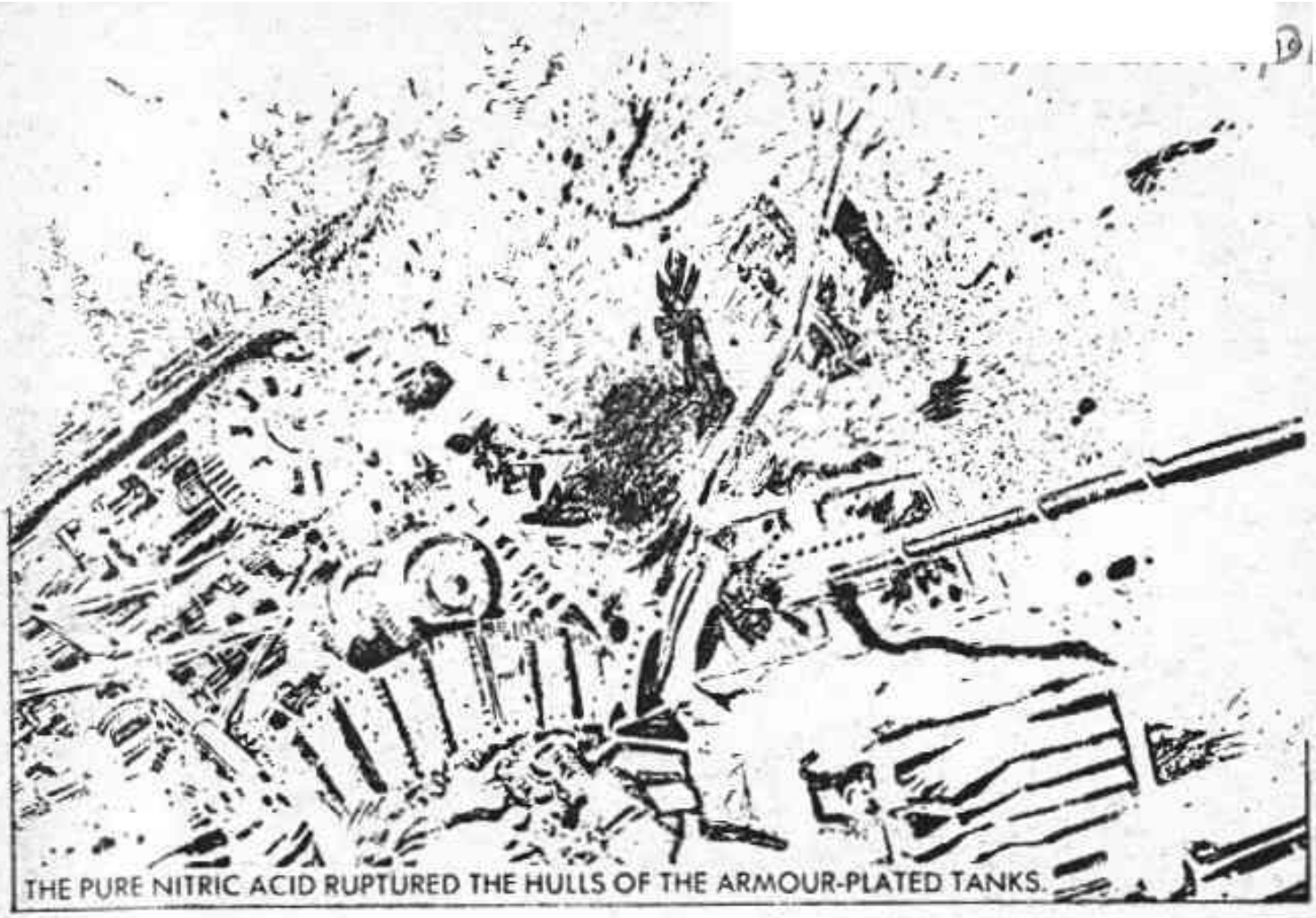
TERRAN CRAFT. ALL UNITS PURSUE AND DESTROY.
I HOPE MY HOLOGRA-MIRAGE DECOYS THE MEASE FOR LONG ENOUGH.


A HOLOGRA-MIRAGE WAS A THREE DIMENSIONAL PICTURE WHICH COULD BE PROJECTED ALMOST ANYWHERE.
I'LL HAVE TO USE MY BACK-PACK TO ESCAPE.


JUST IN TIME.

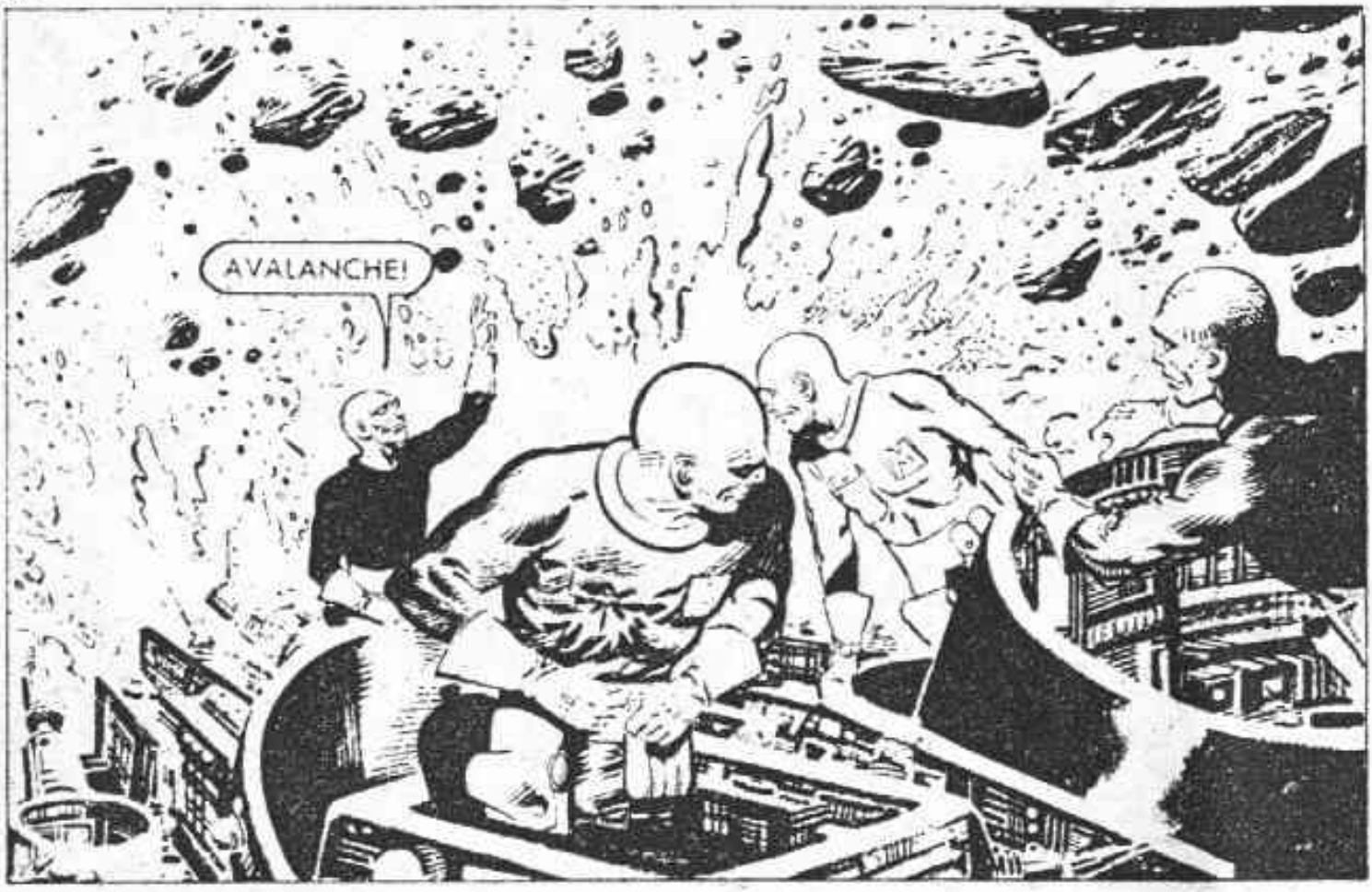
THEY'VE DESTROYED THE ROCK! ALL THAT HEAT WILL RELEASE THE CONCENTRATED NITRIC ACID INSIDE IT.

IT'S A TRICK. ALL UNITS . . . RETREAT . . . TURN BACK.


THE PURE NITRIC ACID RUPTURED THE HULLS OF THE ARMOUR-PLATED TANKS.

GET CLEAR!

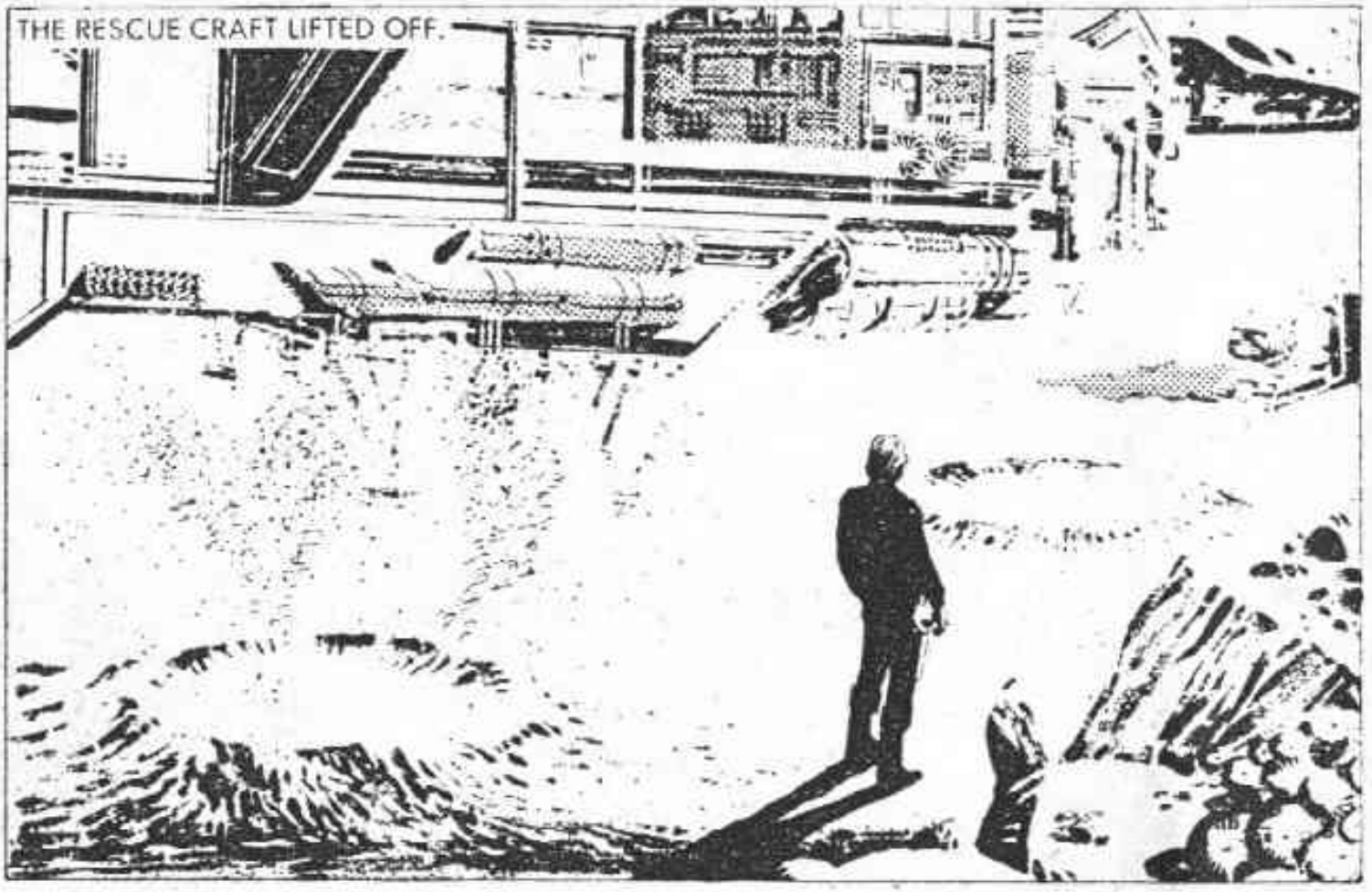
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.


AVALANCHE!

WITH HADRON LONG GONE, ONLY ONE MEASE UNIT LIMPED AWAY.

THE TERRAN SURVIVORS SHOULD HAVE SAFELY REACHED THE RENDEZVOUS BY NOW.

WHEN HADRON REACHED THE RESCUE CARRIER.
:4
GENERAL LARZ PLUTO WAS CAPTURED.
I'LL STAY AND FIND HIM.


THE RESCUE CRAFT LIFTED OFF.

MY SHIP WILL HAVE TO BE HIDDEN.

HADRON CONCEALED HIS SHIP WITH AN OPTI-CEAL DEVICE — WHICH ALLOWED LIGHT TO PASS THROUGH A SOLID OBJECT, THUS MAKING IT INVISIBLE. THEN HE USED HIS ANTI-GRAV PACK TO COVER LARGE DISTANCES.

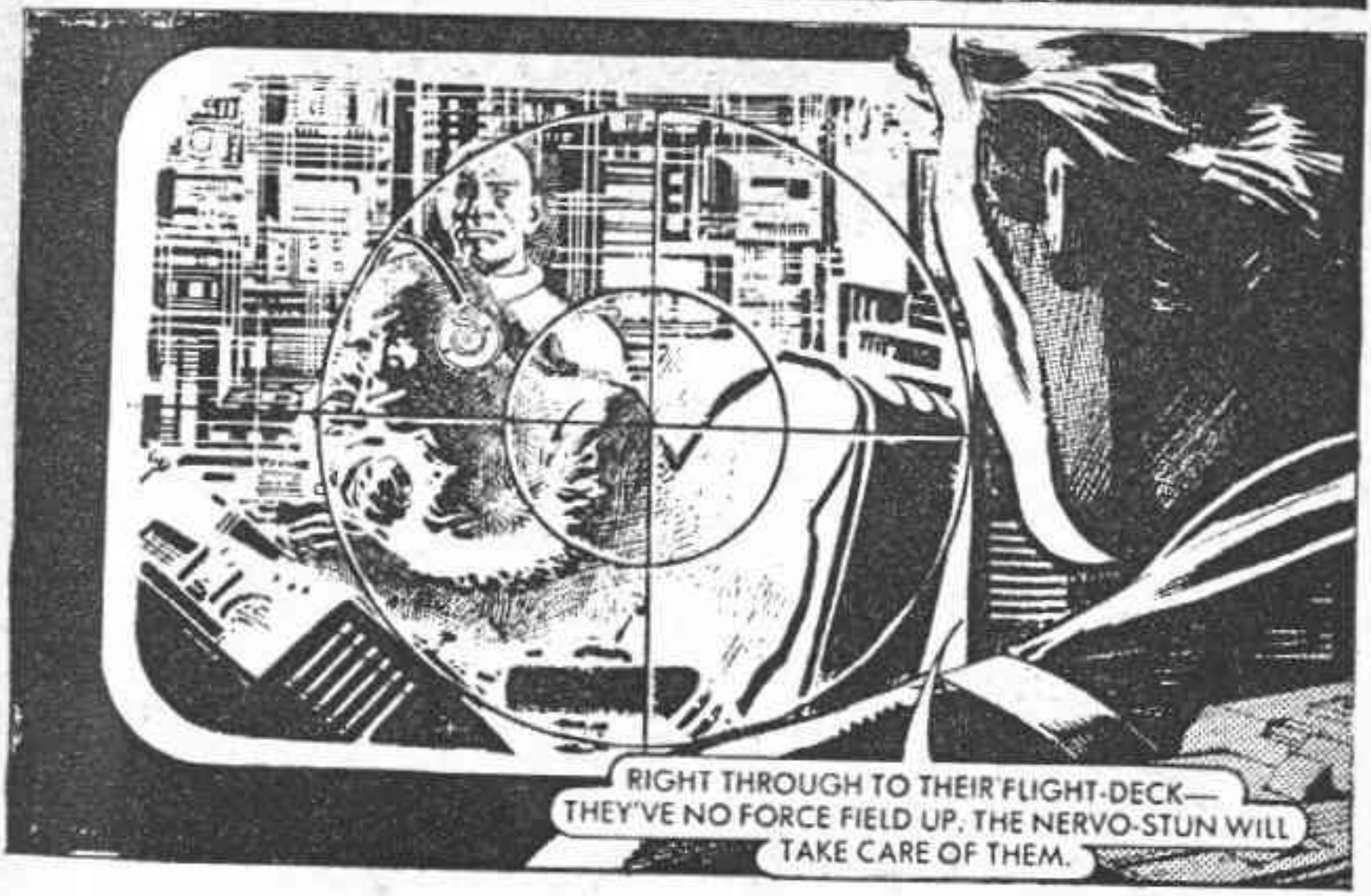
HADRON REACHED THE SCENE OF LARZ PLUTO'S CAPTURE.

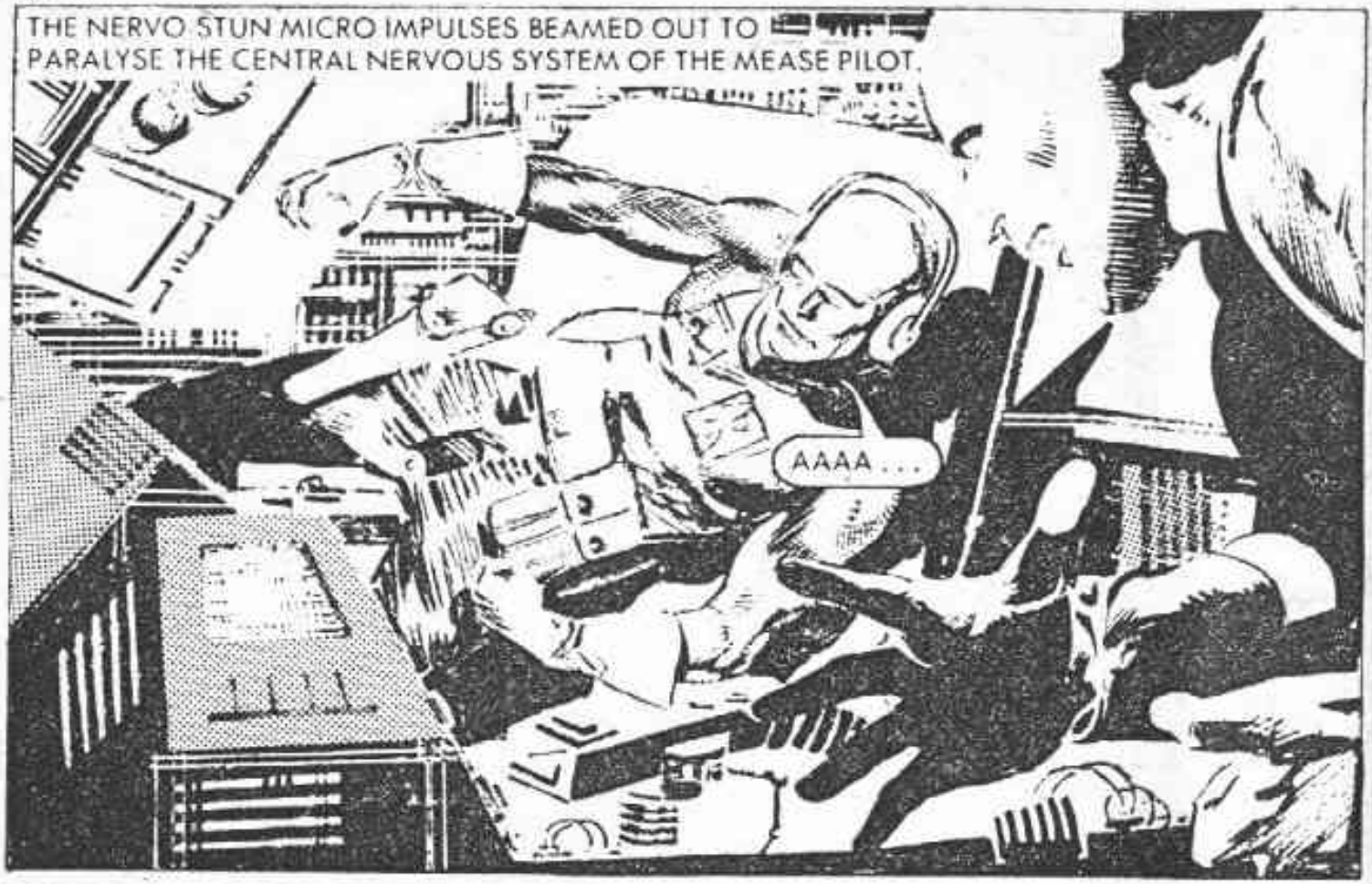
I'VE GOT TO GET INTO THE MEASE BASE UNDETECTED.

A SENSOR PROBE KIT SHOULD GIVE ME AN IDEA OF ANY FORCE FIELD WEAKNESS.
k.
V.2

THERE WAS NONE. HADRON'S ONLY CHANCE WAS A RETURNING FIGHTER.
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE NEXT PATROL.

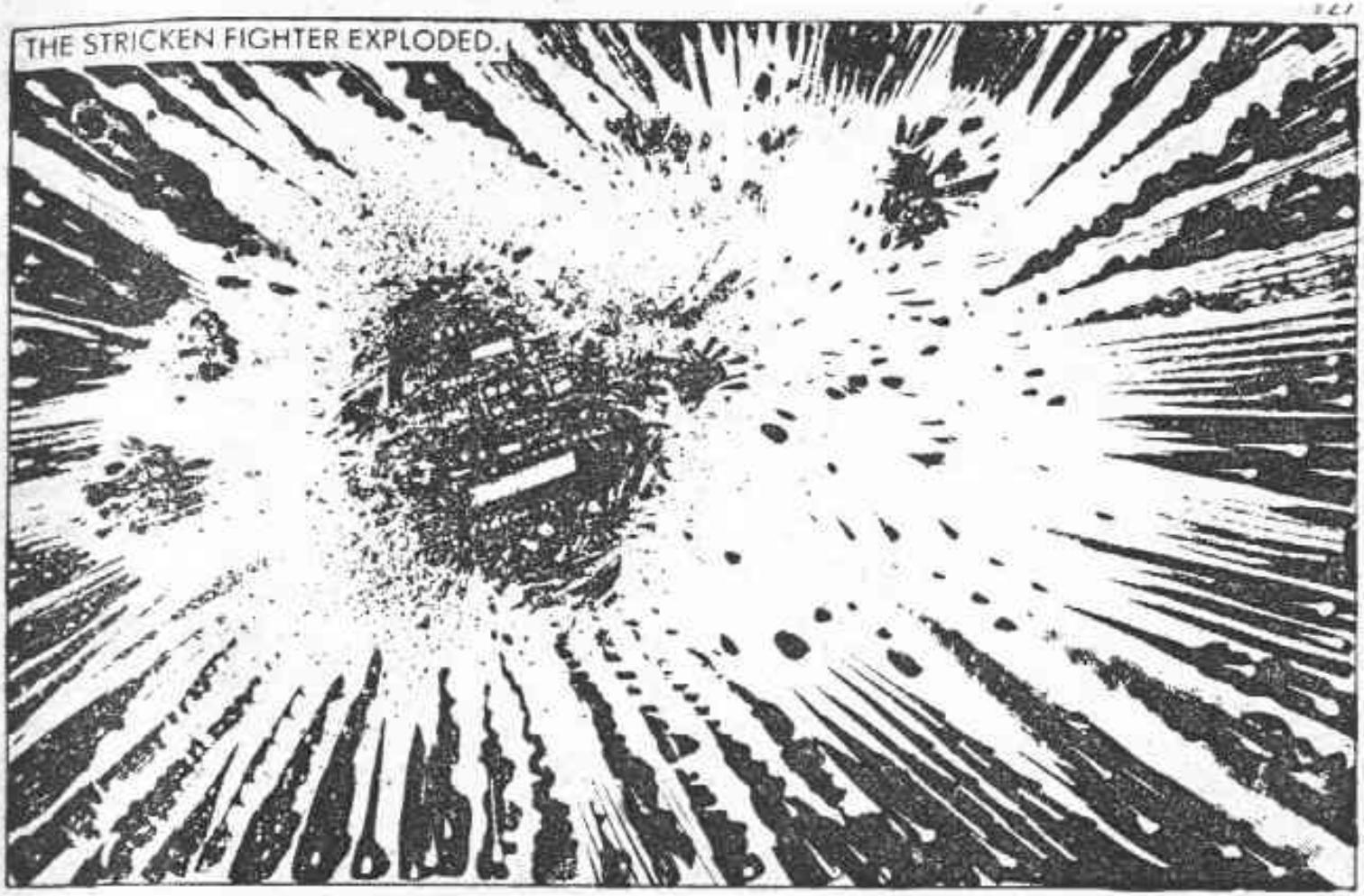
IT WASN'T LONG IN COMING.
THERE'S ONE . . . PROBE ON.
V.


RIGHT THROUGH TO THEIR FLIGHT-DECK—
THEY'VE NO FORCE FIELD UP. THE NERVO-STUN WILL
TAKE CARE OF THEM.


THE NERVO STUN MICRO IMPULSES BEAMED OUT TO PARALYSE THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OF THE MEASE PILOT.
AAAA . . .

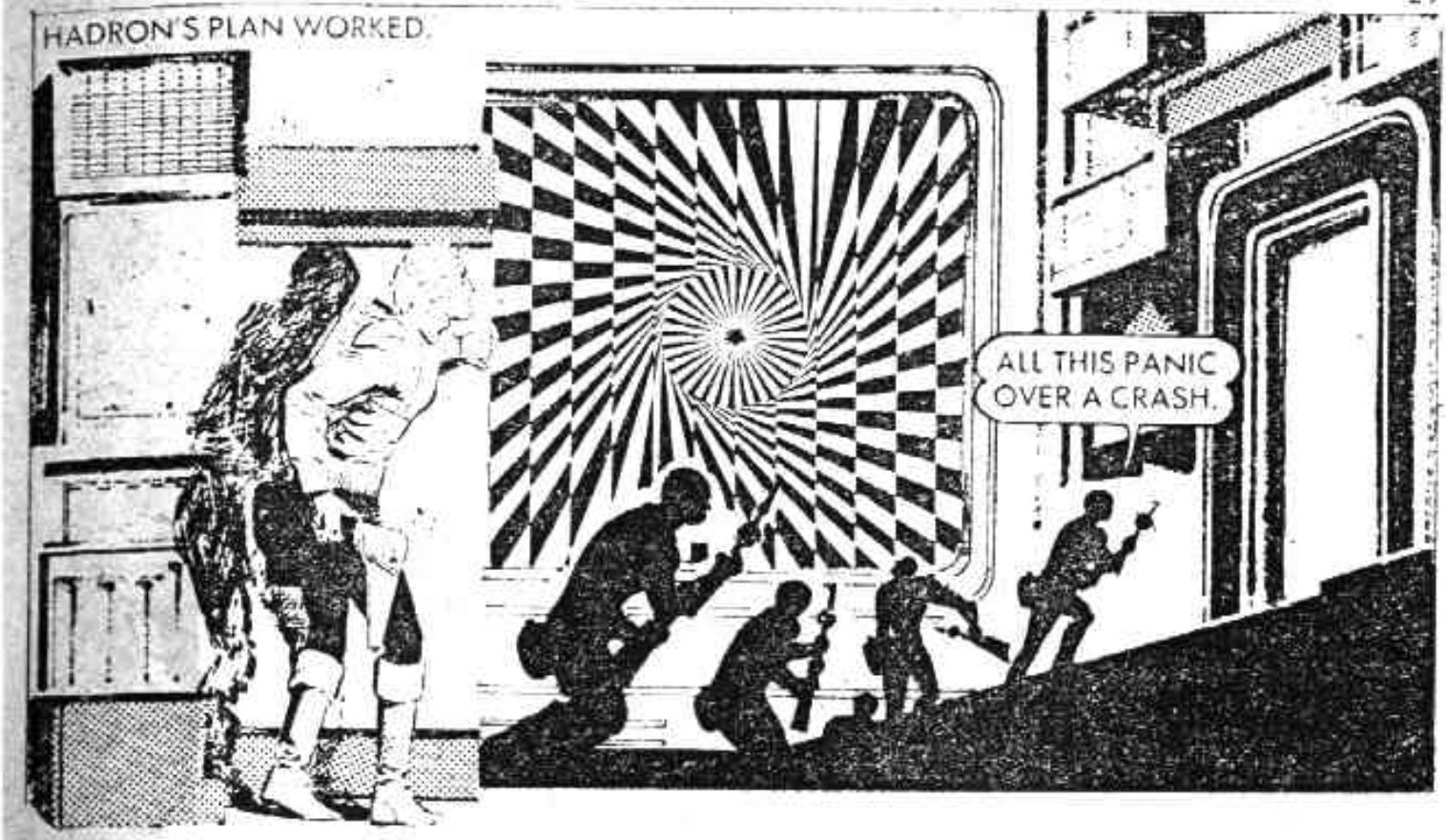
I CAN'T H-HOLD CONTROL!

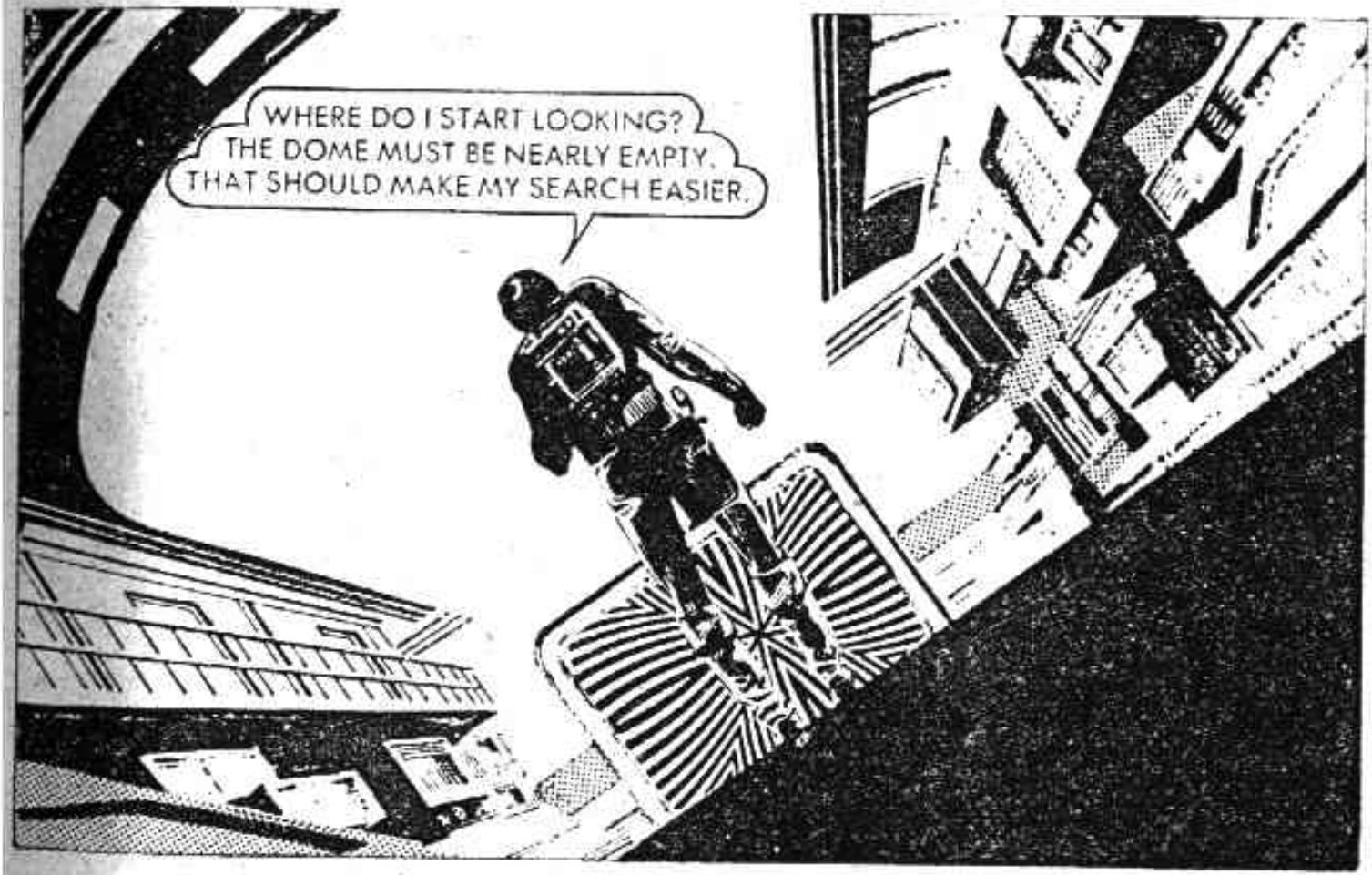
THE EMERGENCY EJECT WORKED JUST IN TIME!


THE STRICKEN FIGHTER EXPLODED.

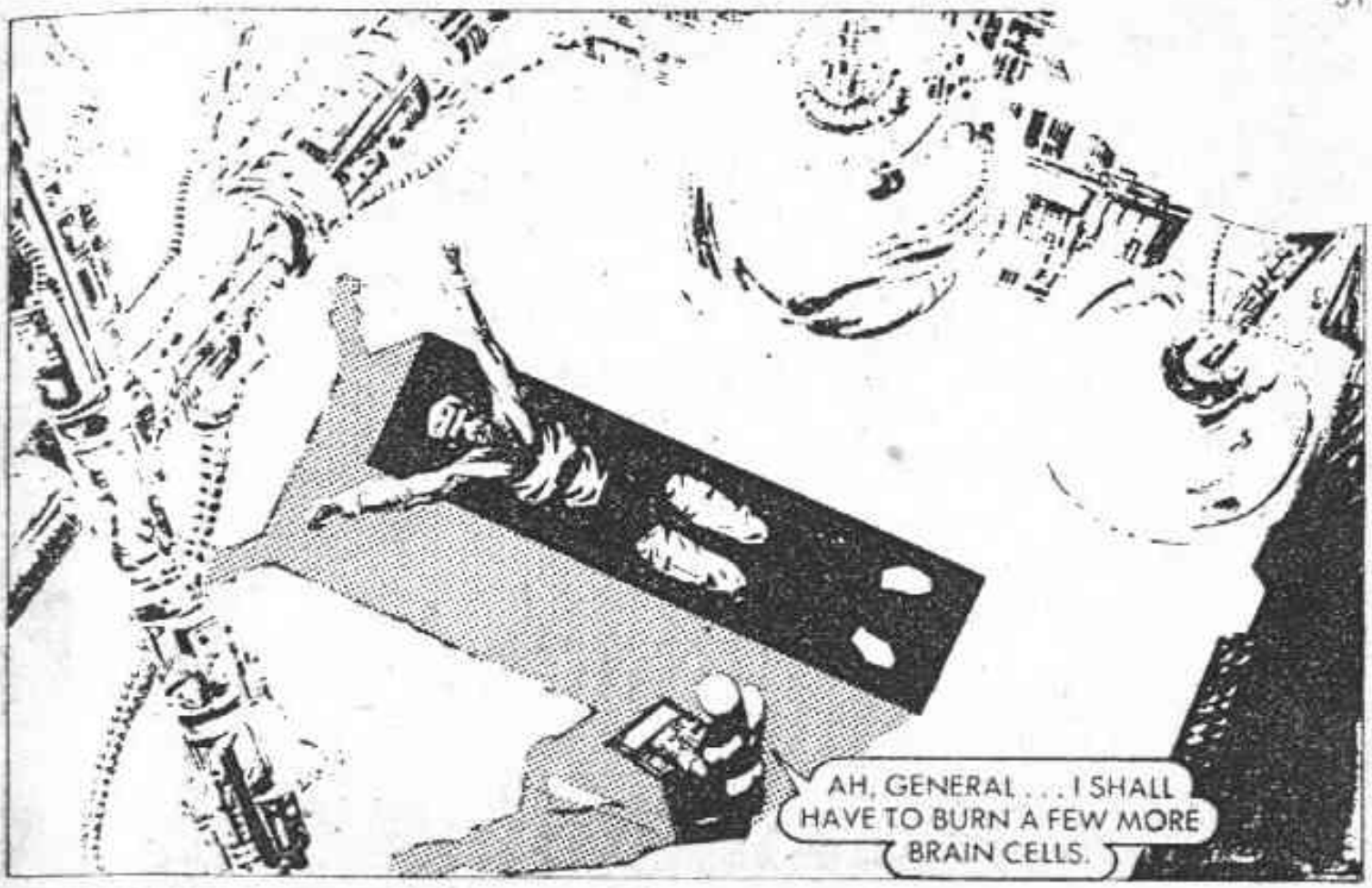
THE EXPLOSION HAS RUPTURED THE FORCE FIELD! BY THE TIME THEY RE-ACTIVATE IT, I'LL BE INSIDE THE DOME.

INSIDE THE DOME —
WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THAT EXPLOSION? ANSWER AT ONCE!
ONE OF OUR RETURNING FIGHTERS CRASH-LANDED. THE CREW EJECTED.
SEND THEM TO ME! I WANT TO KNOW WHY THEY CRASHED IN A SAFE ZONE.
7.

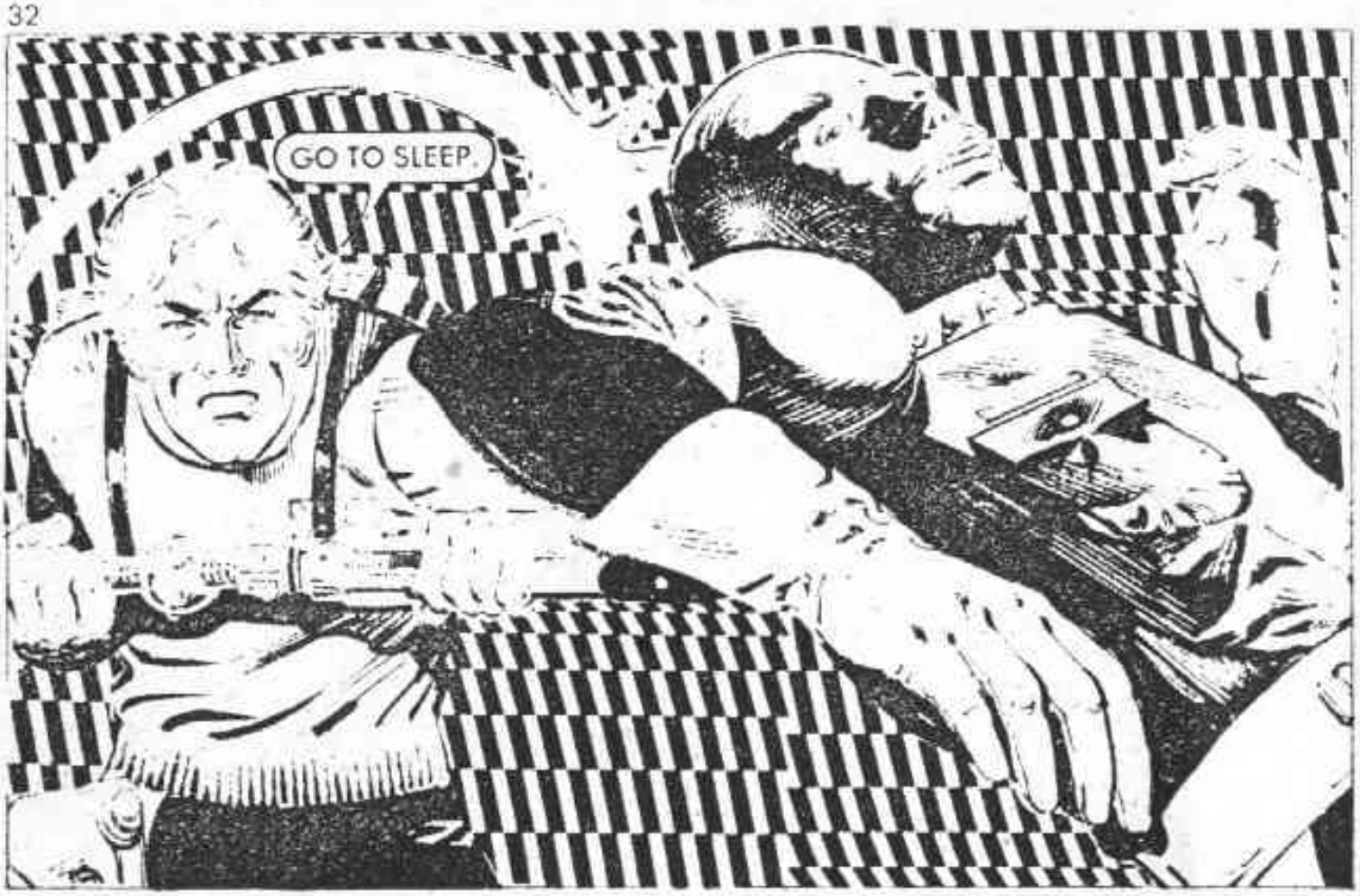

HADRON'S PLAN WORKED.
ALL THIS PANIC OVER A CRASH.


WHERE DO I START LOOKING? THE DOME MUST BE NEARLY EMPTY. THAT SHOULD MAKE MY SEARCH EASIER.

LARZ PLUTO WAS BEING TORTURED.
I WILL STOP IF YOU TELL ME WHAT I REQUIRE TO KNOW.
m13
SPEAK!
PLUTO, LARZ . . .
GENERAL . . . 646462 . . .


AH, GENERAL . . . I SHALL HAVE TO BURN A FEW MORE BRAIN CELLS.

I THINK NOT!
W-WHAT?


GO TO SLEEP.

CAN YOU WALK, GENERAL?
MK
I HOPE SO.

YOU AREN'T ONE OF THE GALAC-SQUAD.
NO, GENERAL. I'M A FI-SCI OPERATIVE.

FI-SCI . . . ALL GIMMICK AND NO GUTS, BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU.

THE TERRAN GENERAL HAS ESCAPED.

SUDDENLY, HADRON BURST INTO THE ROOM.
ONE FALSE MOVE AND YOUR LEADER GETS VAPOURISED!
OUR LEADER MUST NOT BE HARMED — WE SURRENDER.
47C

GRAB THE GUNS, GENERAL! AND YOU — TELL US THE QUICKEST WAY OUT OF HERE.
NO!
4A.

HADRON STRAPPED THE COMMANDER TO HIS OWN TORTURE DEVICE.
I DON'T KNOW THE LIMITS OF THIS DEVICE SO TALK BEFORE YOUR SKULL GOES NOVA!

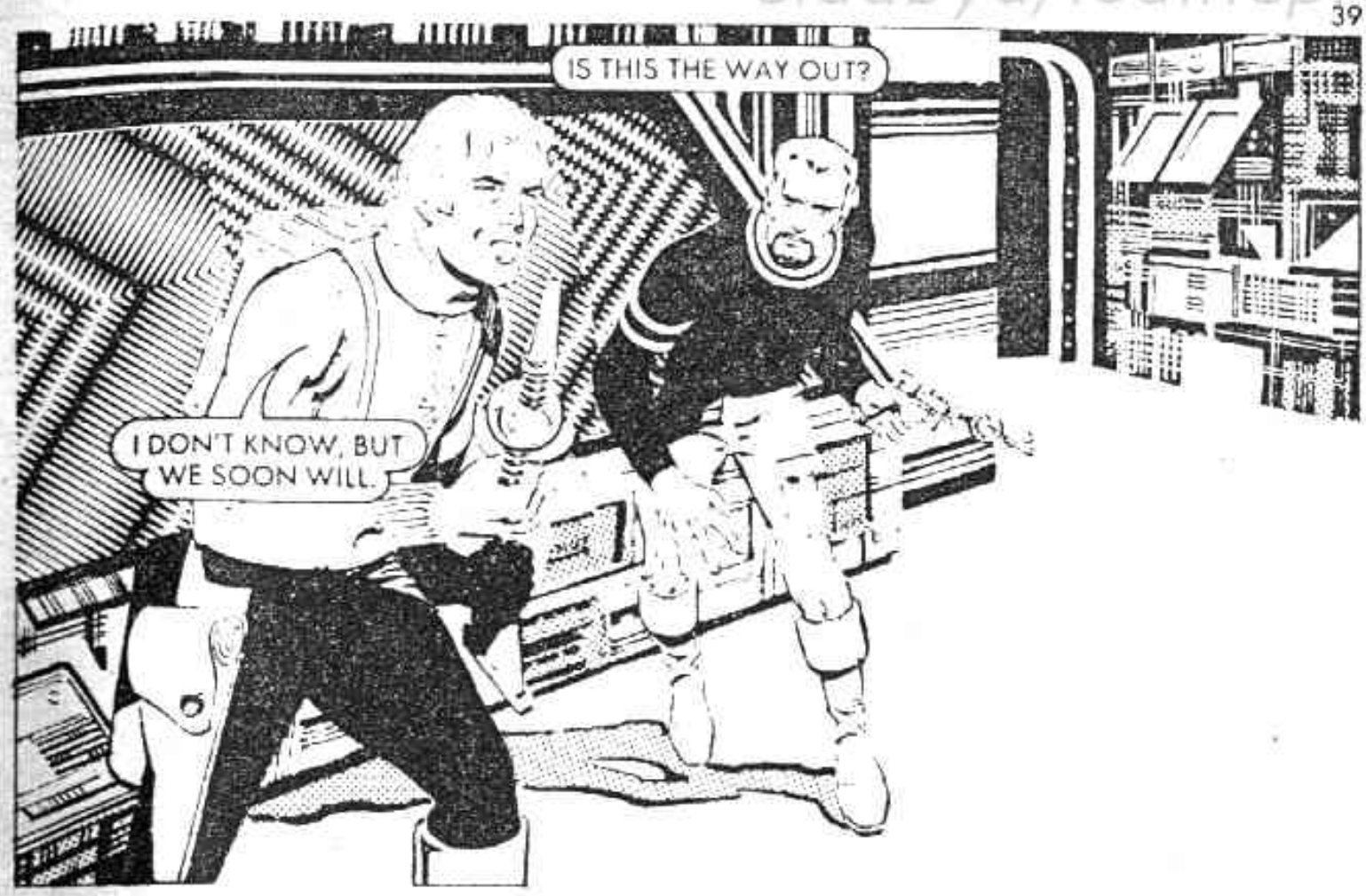
UNNOTICED BY THE EARTHMEN, THE TORTURER HAD RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS.
MUST SEND A WARNING —

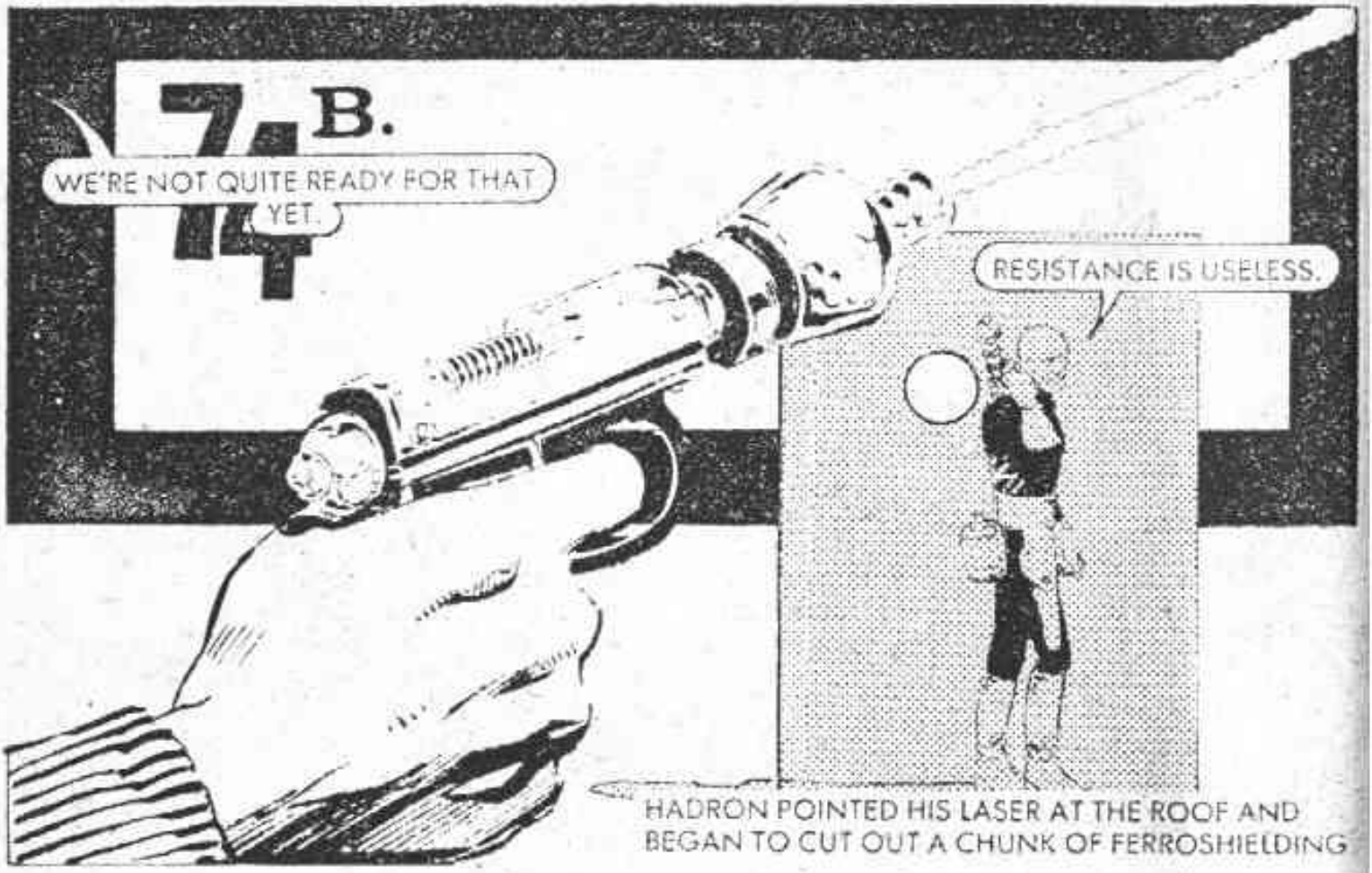
eldubya/iodinepr

THE MEASE TORTURER SMASHED THROUGH THE CONTROLLING VACUUM. PRESSURE IN THE FORCEFIELD IMMEDIATELY DROPPED.
THIS WILL ALERT ALL THE EMERGENCY SERVICES.

HADRON SWUNG ROUND AT THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS.
ALL THE MEASE IN THE AREA WILL BE HERE SOON — GIVE UP NOW.
COME ON, GENERAL.

elaubya/iodineprie

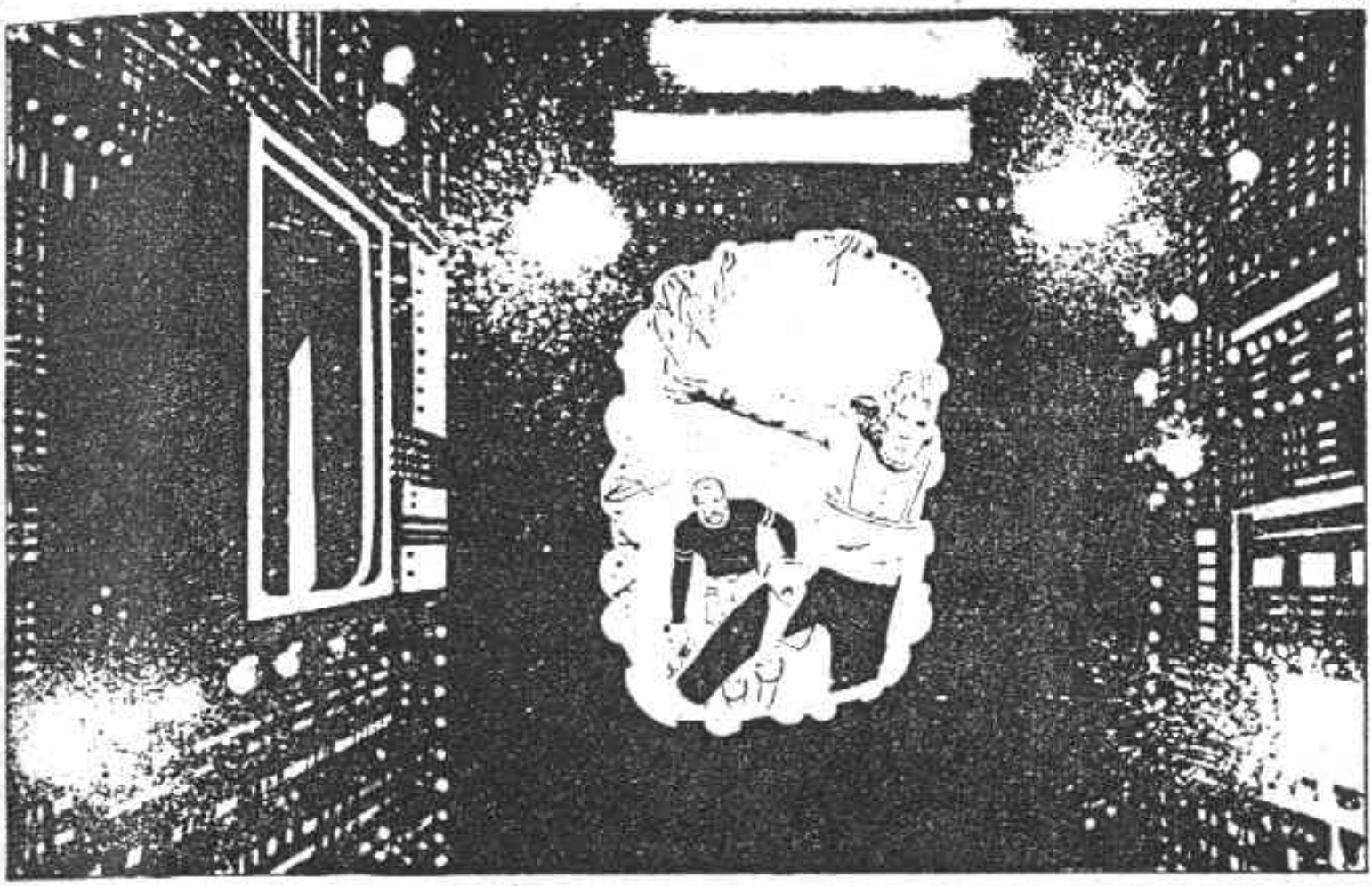


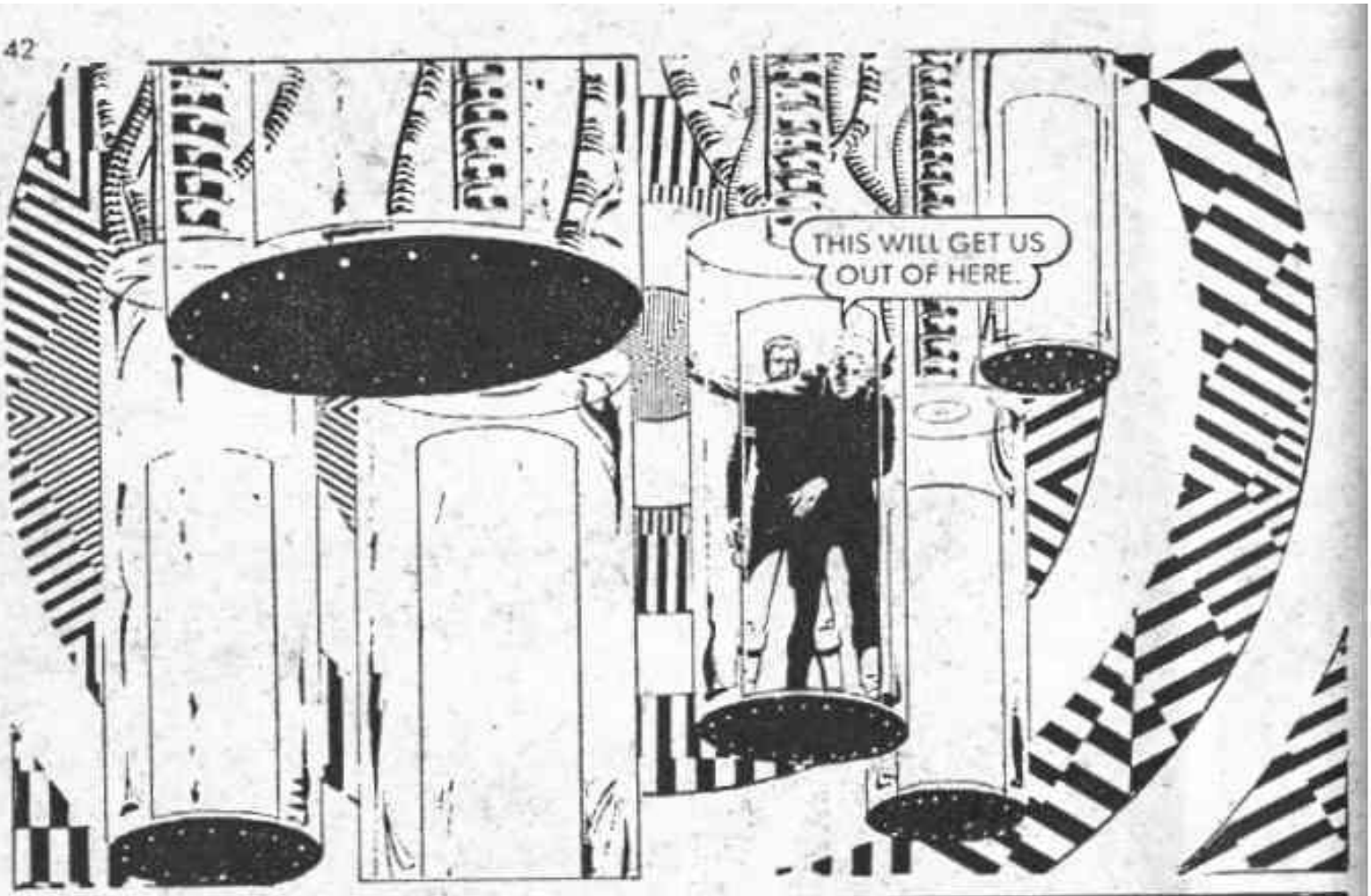

7.B.
WE'RE NOT QUITE READY FOR THAT YET.
RESISTANCE IS USELESS.
HADRON POINTED HIS LASER AT THE ROOF AND BEGAN TO CUT OUT A CHUNK OF FERROSHIELDING

WATCH YOUR HEAD.

A SIMPLE LASER CUTTER DESIGNED BY FI-SCI. IT CAN TURN DOORS INTO WALLS AS WELL.

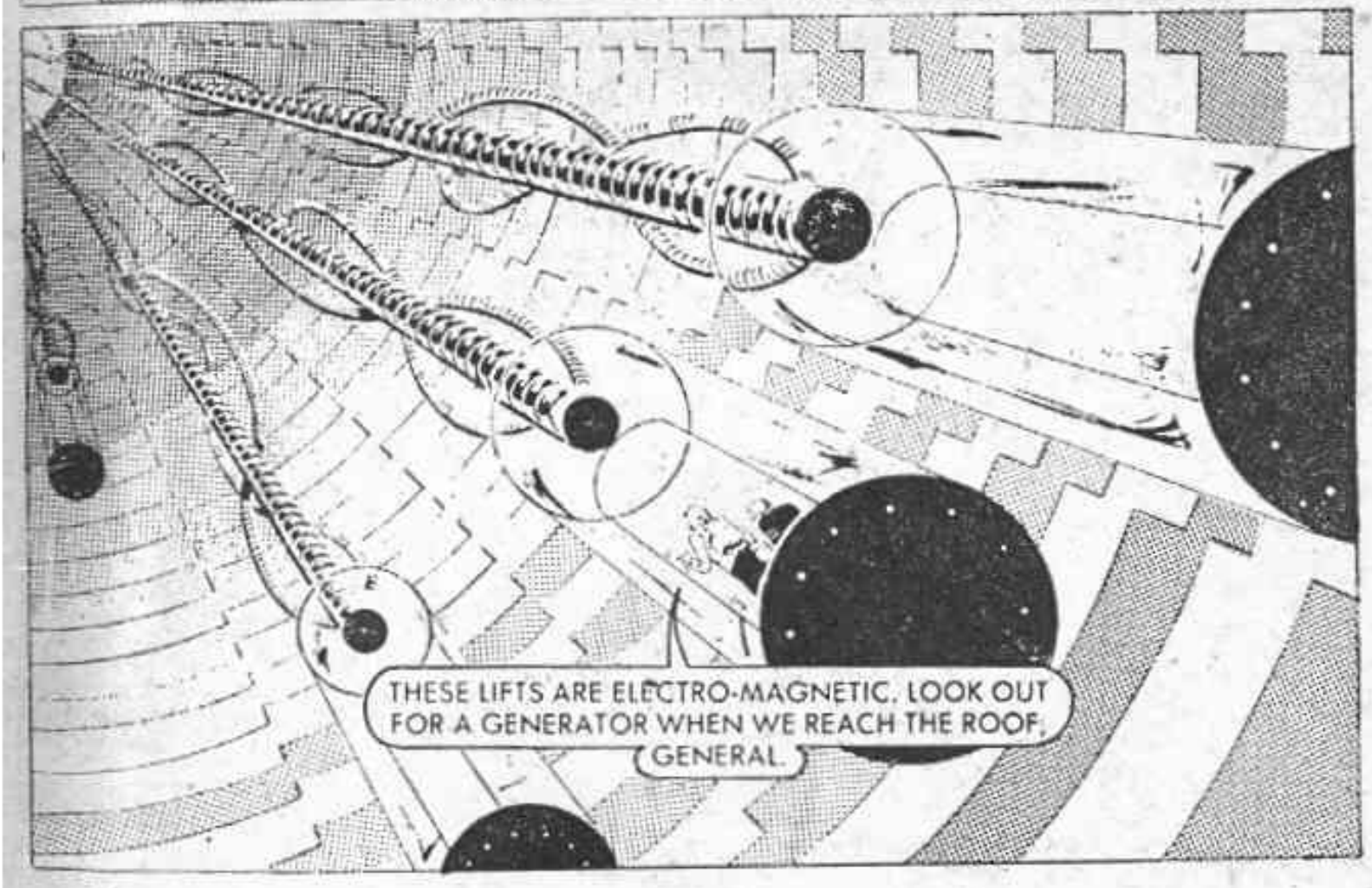
eldubya/lodmeprie




THIS WILL GET US OUT OF HERE.

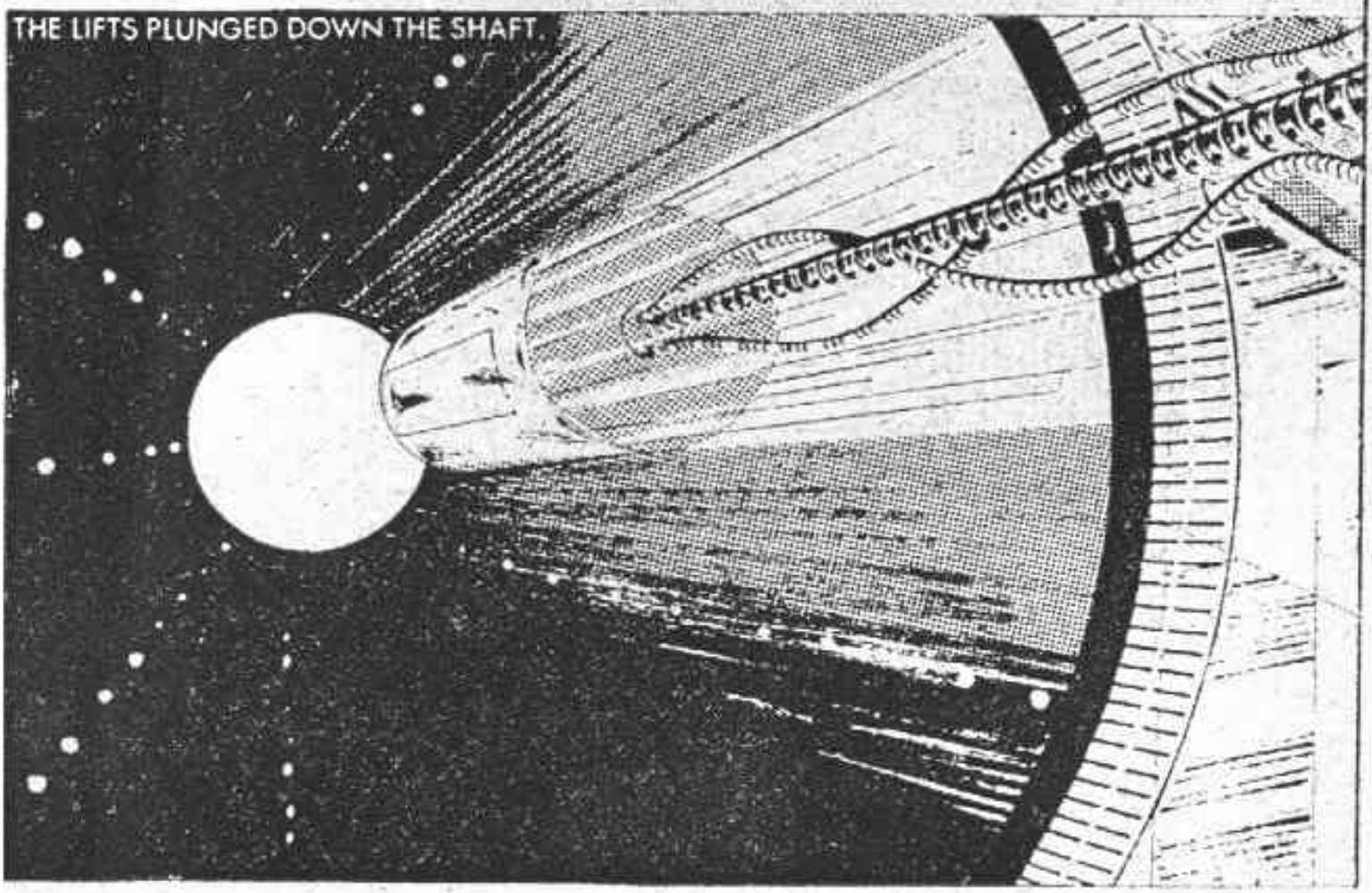
A..
F2
THERE THEY ARE!

eldubya/iodinenine



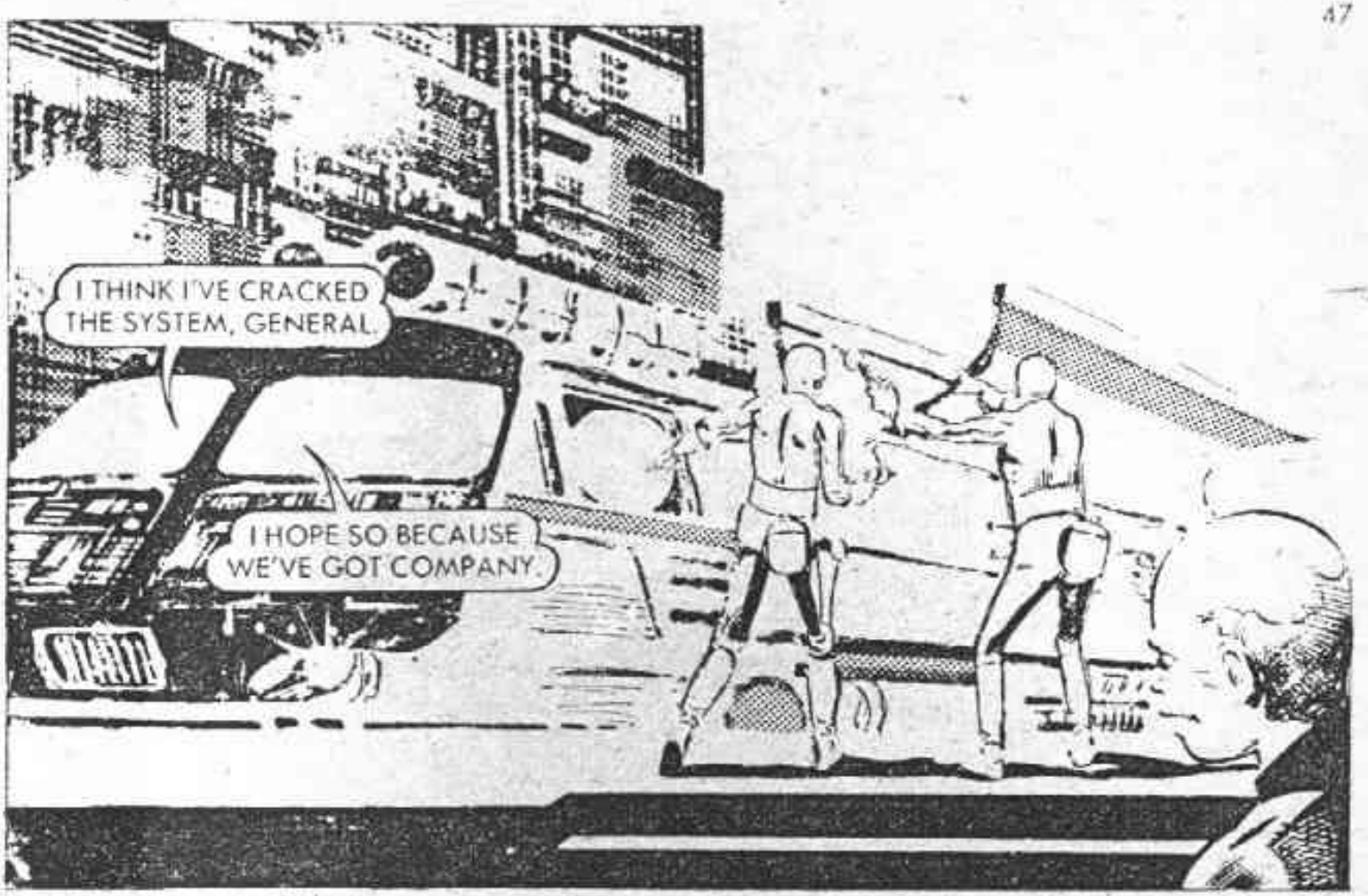
WE MIGHT JUST HAVE TIME TO STOP THE PURSUIT.
E. 37
389
THAT SHOULD STOP THEM FOR A BIT.
PF.

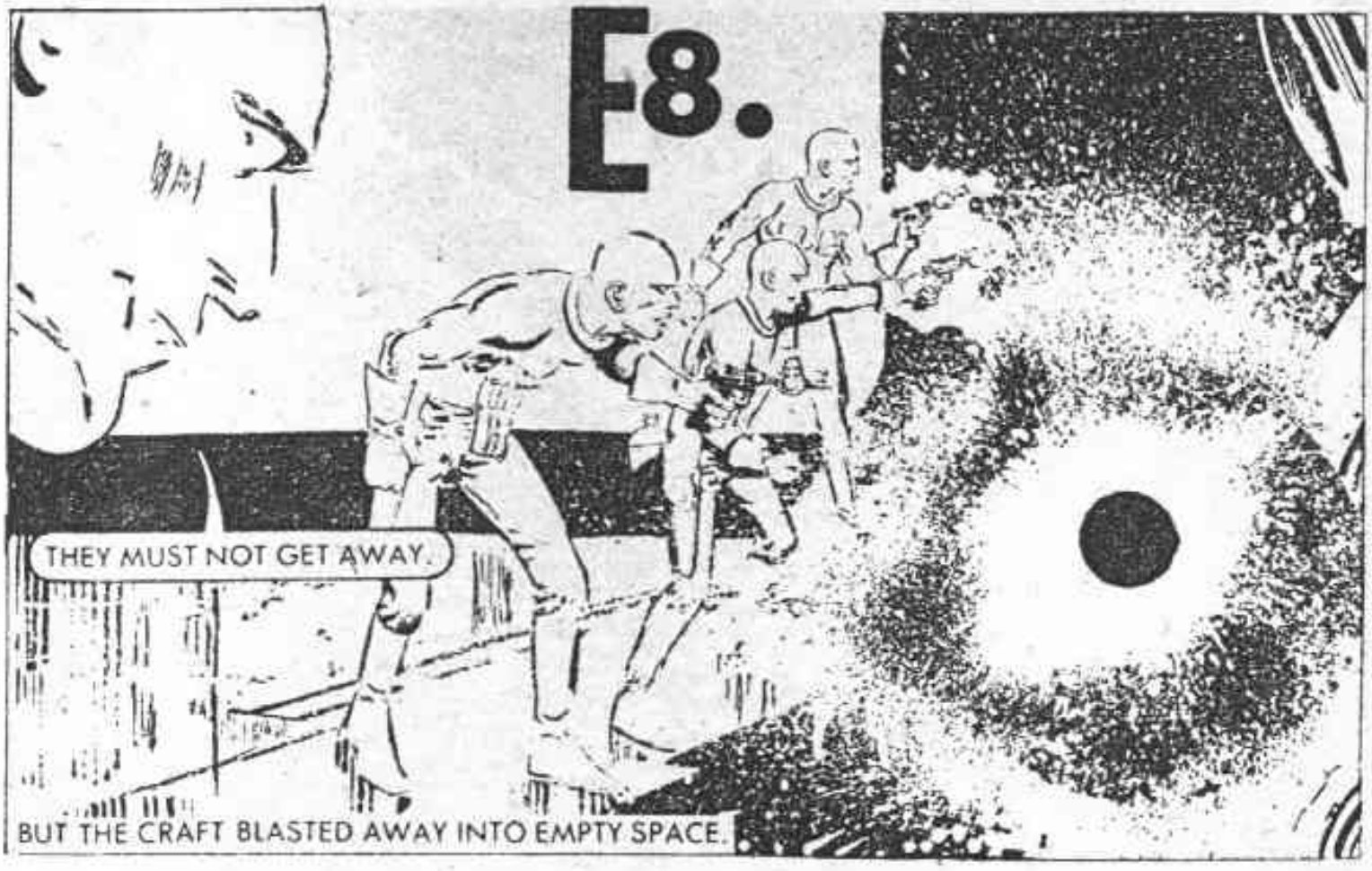
THE POWER HAS FAILED!

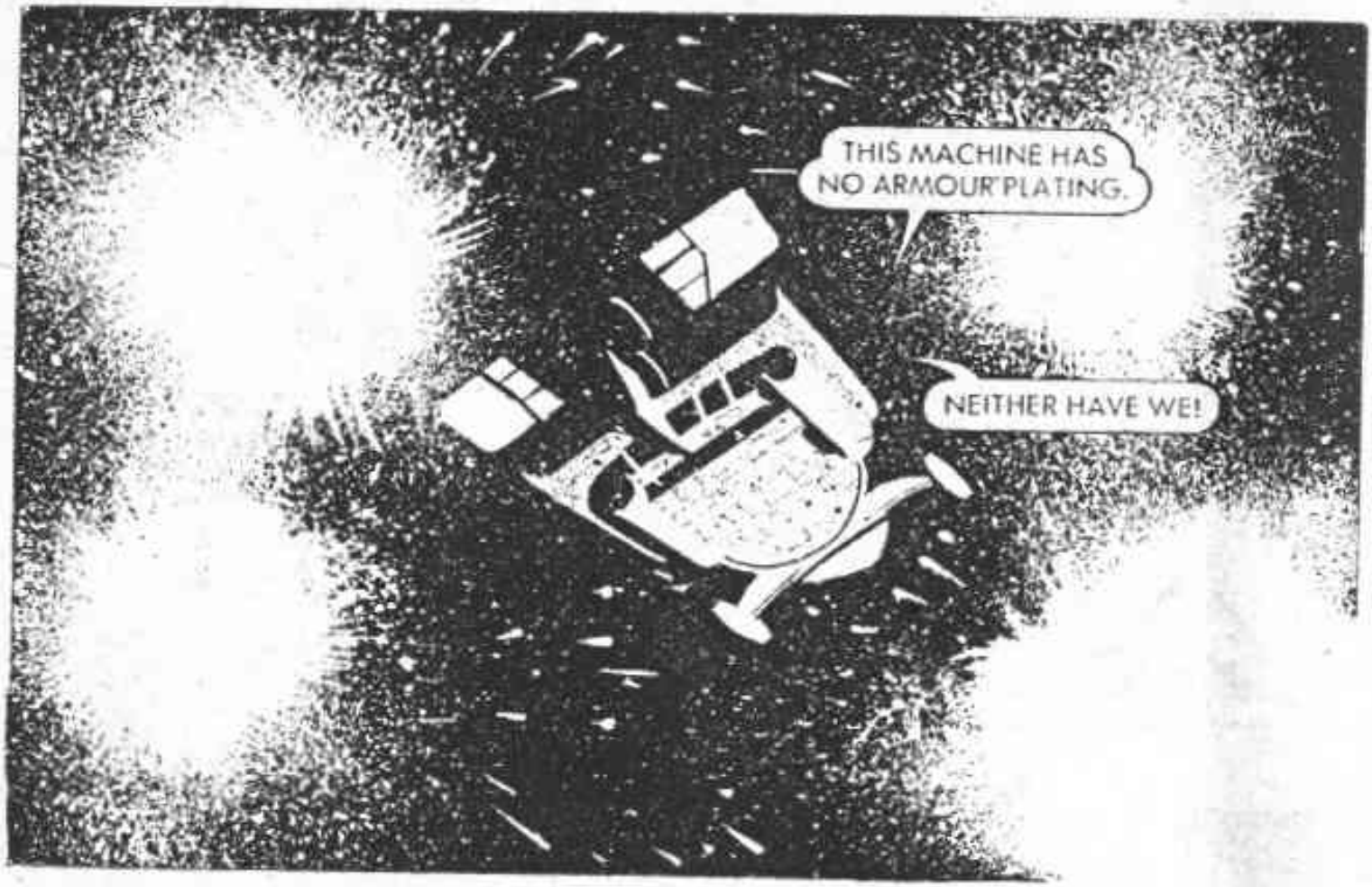

THE LIFTS PLUNGED DOWN THE SHAFT.

MEANWHILE, THE EARTHMEN HAD FOUND AN EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTING CRAFT.
2P.
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FLY THIS THING?
IT HAS THE SAME BASIC LAYOUT AS OUR CRAFT.

ALL MACHINERY HAS A BASIC LOGIC WHICH I AM TRAINED TO WORK OUT.
74


I THINK I'VE CRACKED THE SYSTEM, GENERAL.
I HOPE SO BECAUSE WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

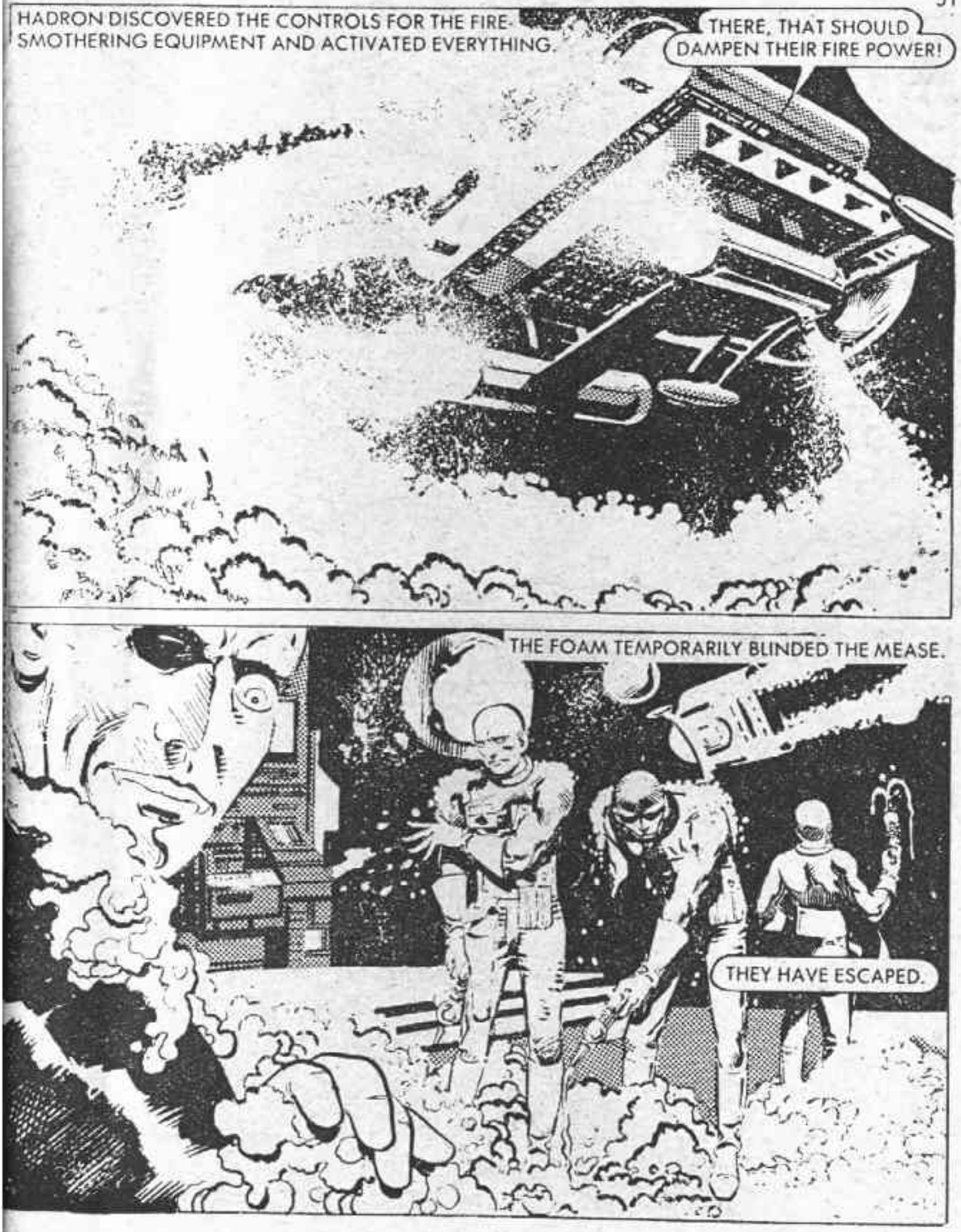

E8.
THEY MUST NOT GET AWAY.
BUT THE CRAFT BLASTED AWAY INTO EMPTY SPACE.

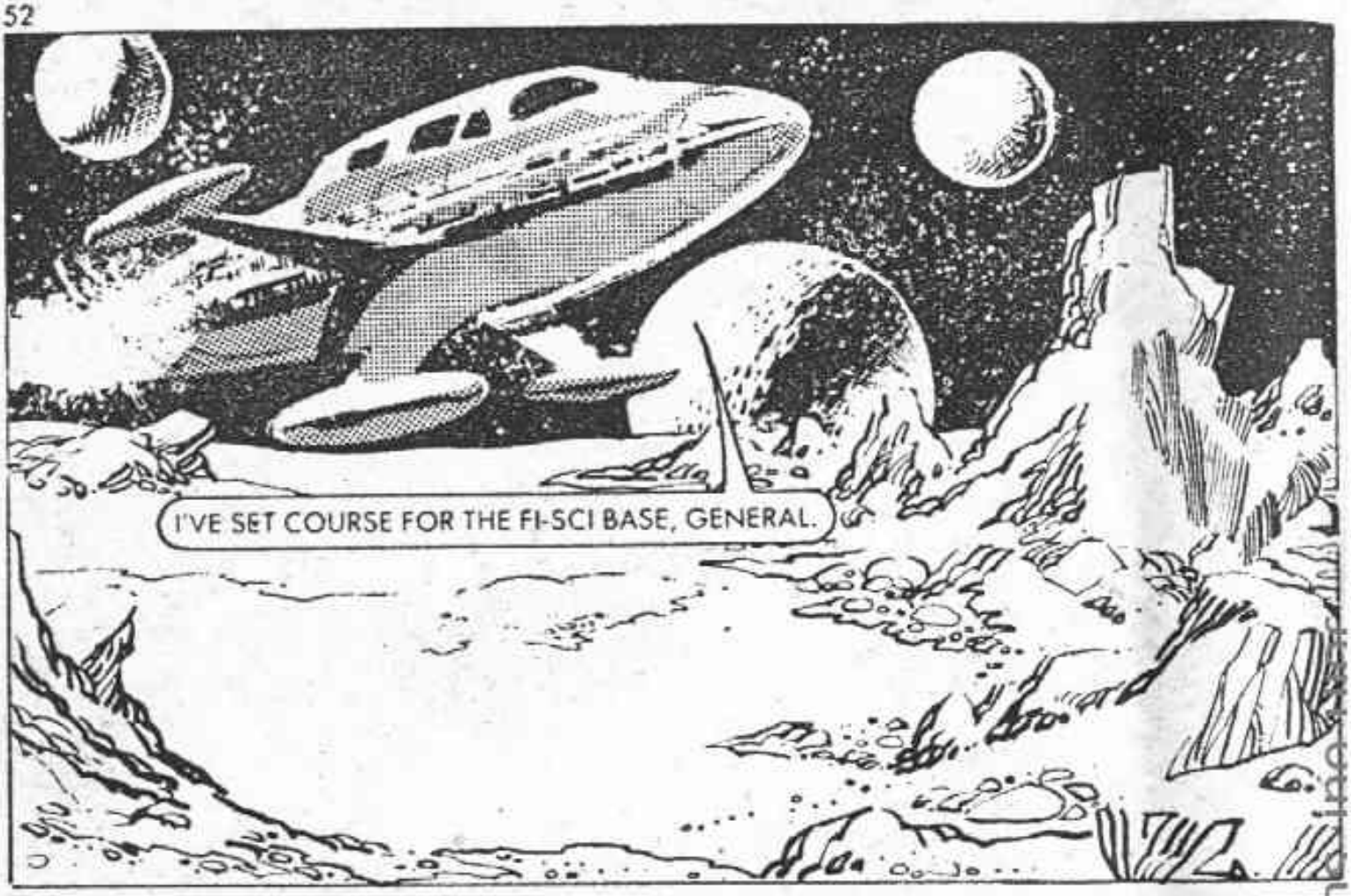

THIS MACHINE HAS NO ARMOUR PLATING.
NEITHER HAVE WE!

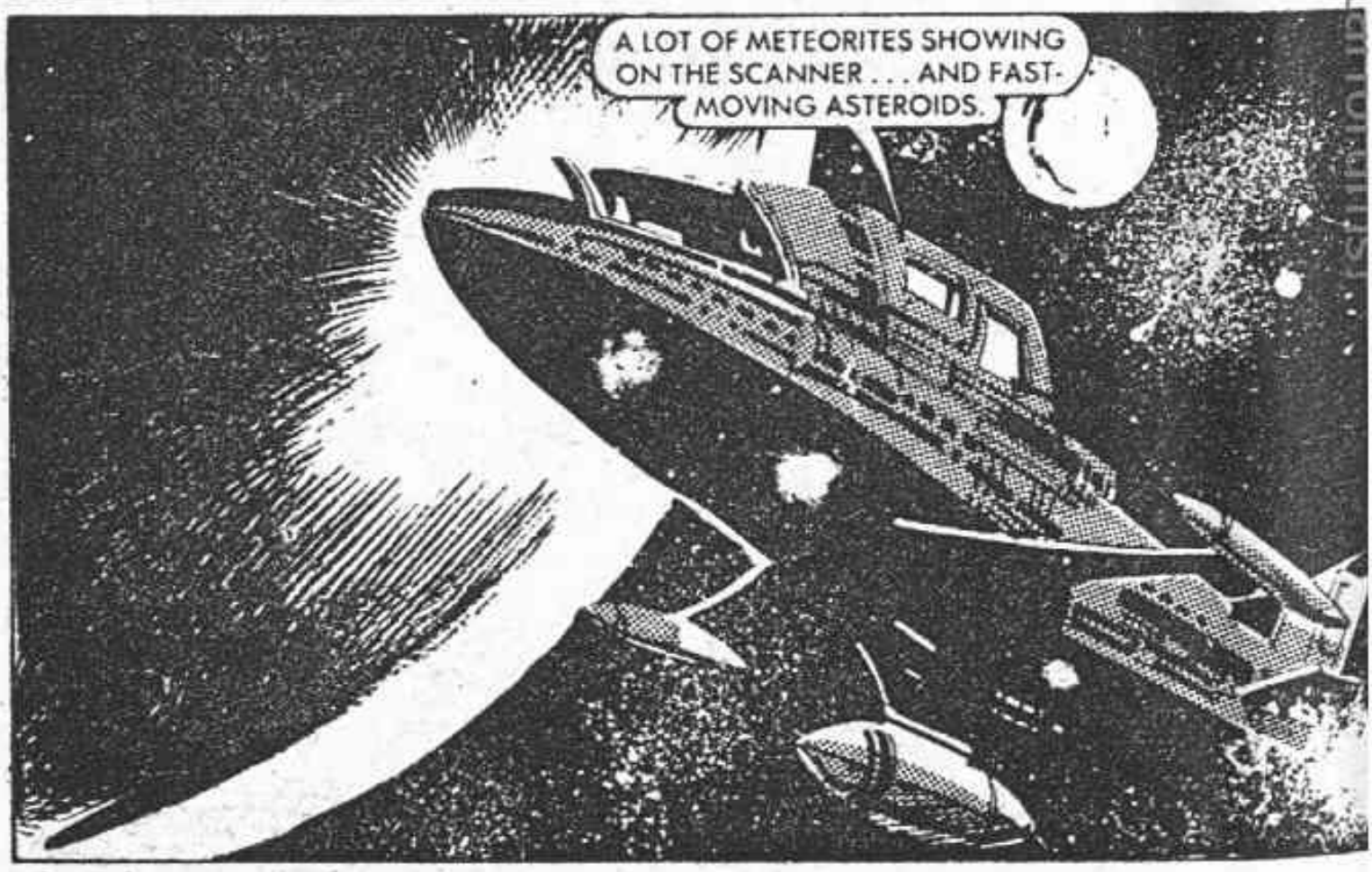
THE VEHICLE IS ALSO UNARMED.

9n5.
MEASE CRAFT . . . 22 DEG. . . . CLOSING.
I KNOW THE SYSTEM NOW, GENERAL. LET'S GET OUT INTO FREE SPACE.
THE FORCEFIELD EXIT CORRIDOR IS WELL-PROTECTED.

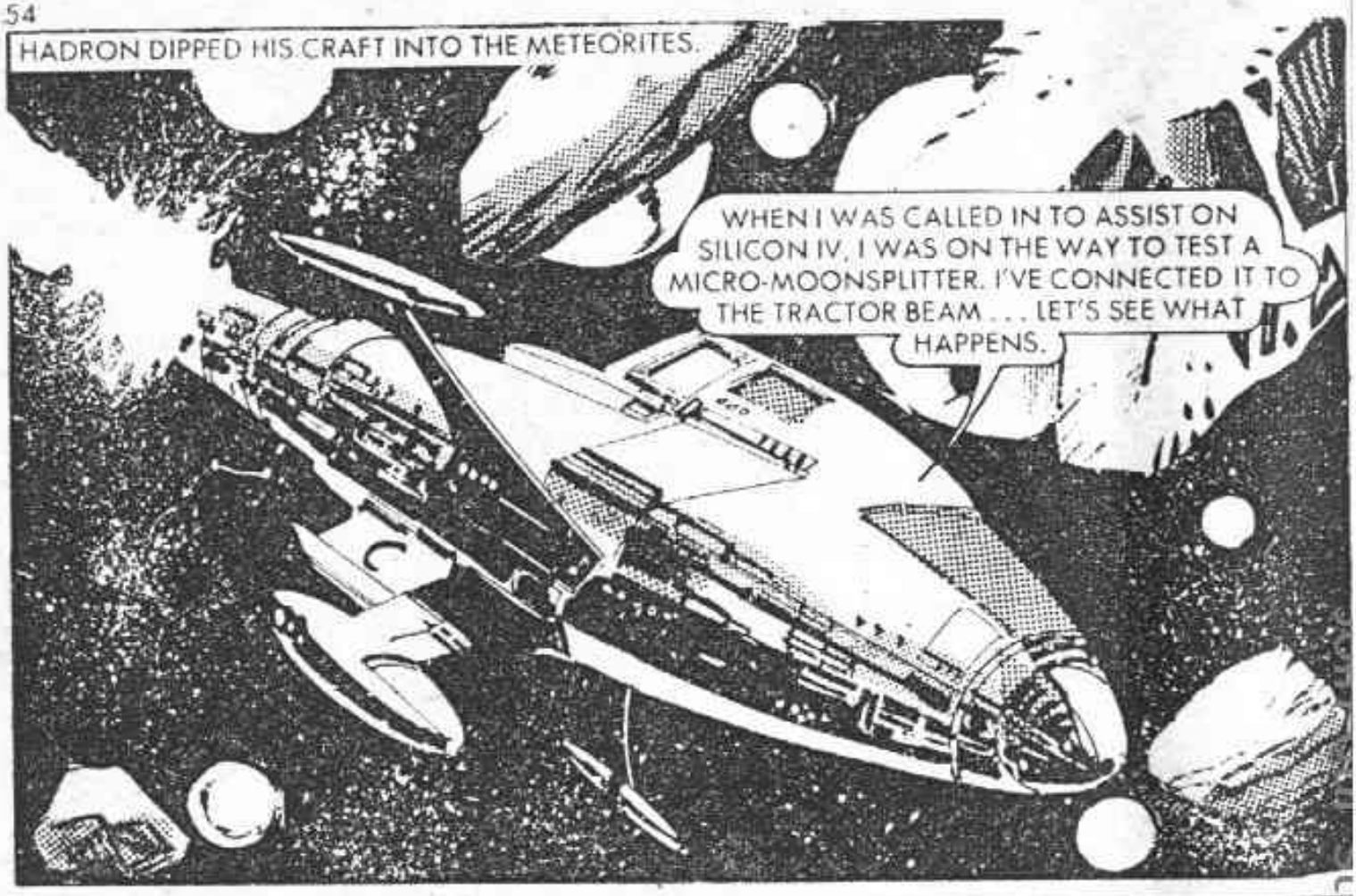
THE LEADER OF THE MEASE GUARDSHIP HAD HIS ORDERS.
THE TERRANS MUST BE SHOT DOWN AT ONCE!
E41
THE EXIT CORRIDOR IS THICK WITH MEASE.

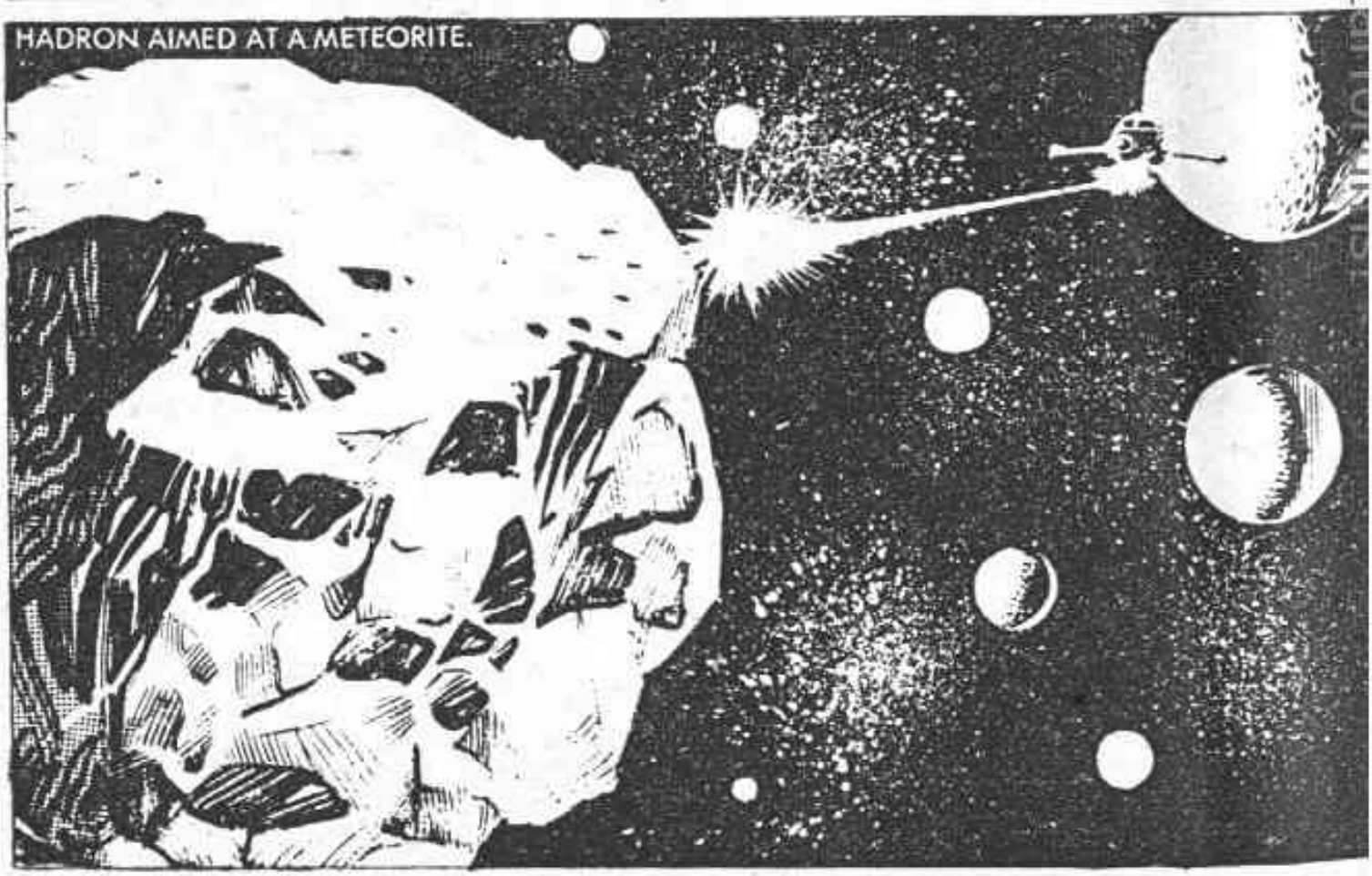

HADRON DISCOVERED THE CONTROLS FOR THE FIRE-SMOTHERING EQUIPMENT AND ACTIVATED EVERYTHING.
THERE, THAT SHOULD DAMPEN THEIR FIRE POWER!
THE FOAM TEMPORARILY BLINDED THE MEASE.
THEY HAVE ESCAPED.

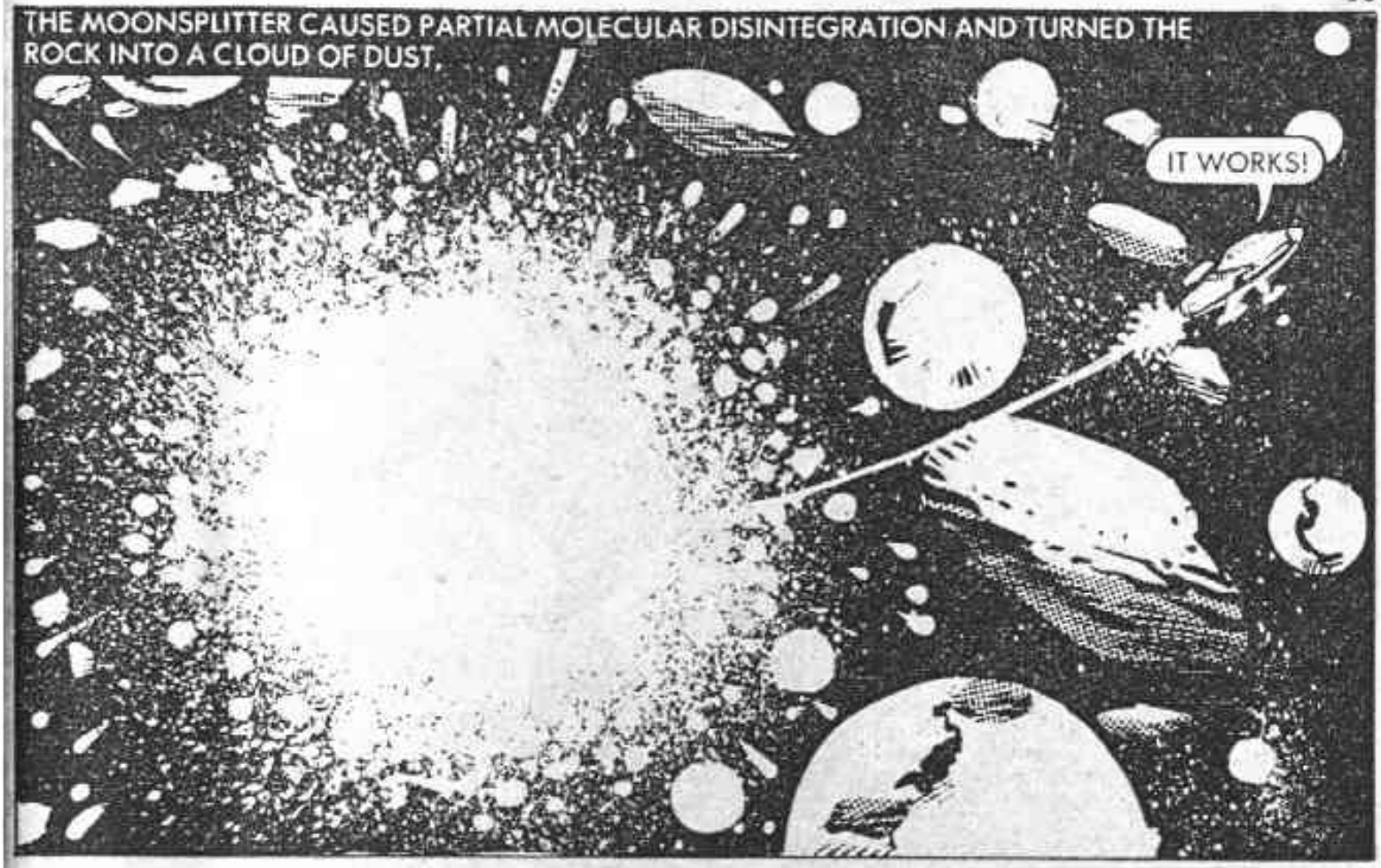

I'VE SET COURSE FOR THE FI-SCI BASE, GENERAL.

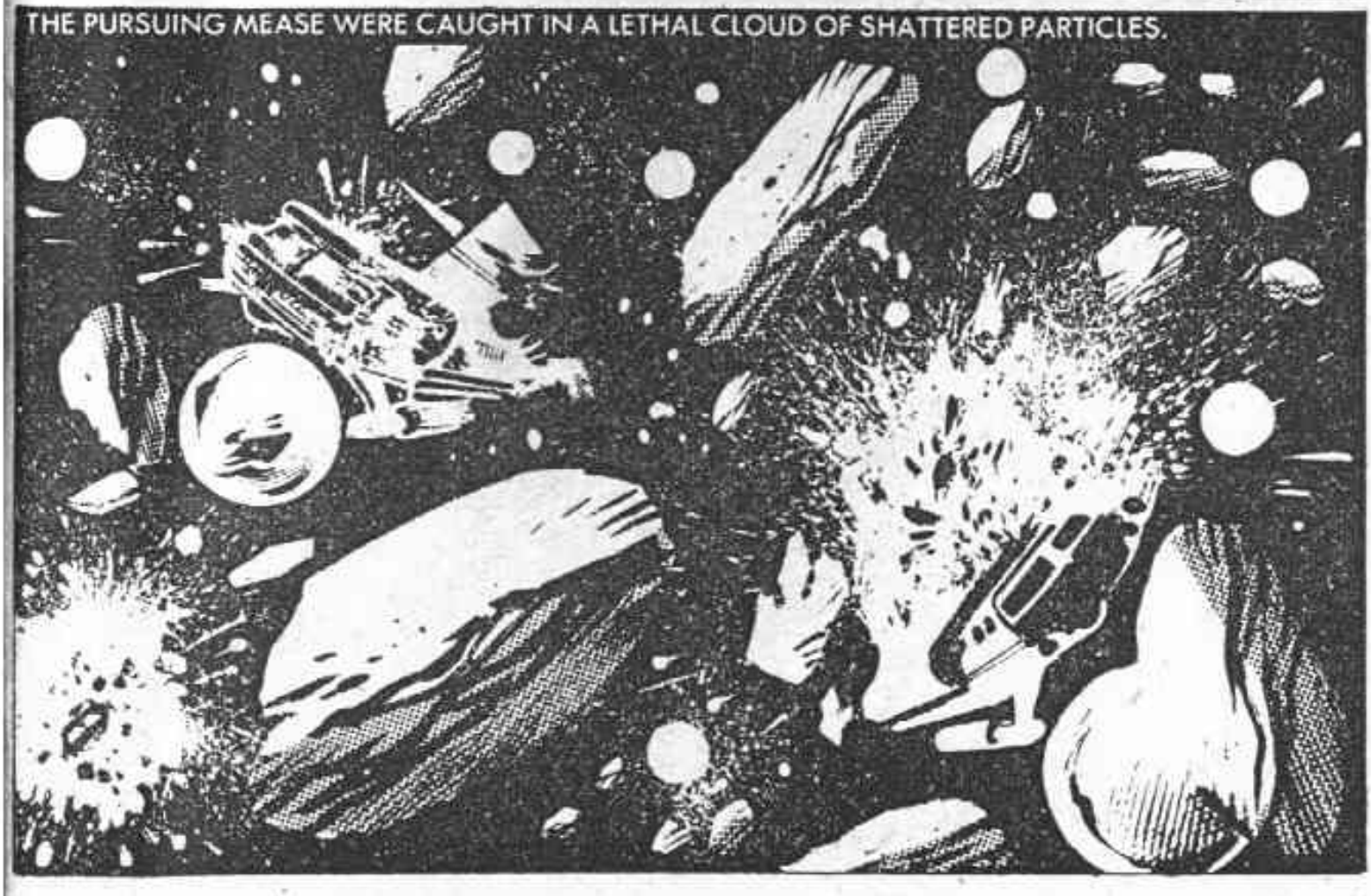

A LOT OF METEORITES SHOWING ON THE SCANNER . . . AND FAST-MOVING ASTEROIDS.

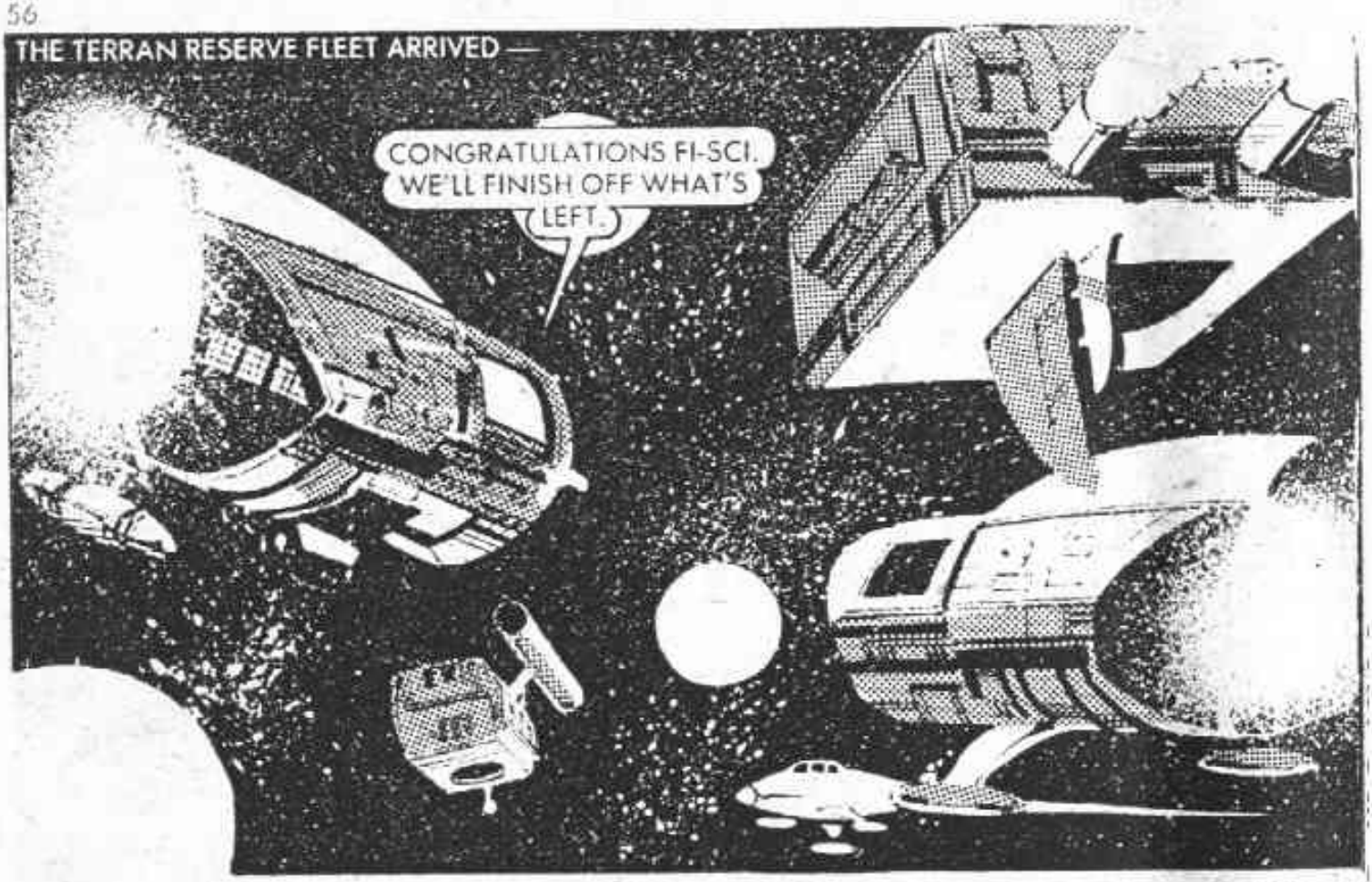
THEY AREN'T ASTEROIDS— THEY'RE FOLLOWING ON OUR COURSE!
IT MUST BE THE MEASE.
THE TERRANS ARE ON SCAN—OUR ORDERS ARE TO OBLITERATE.

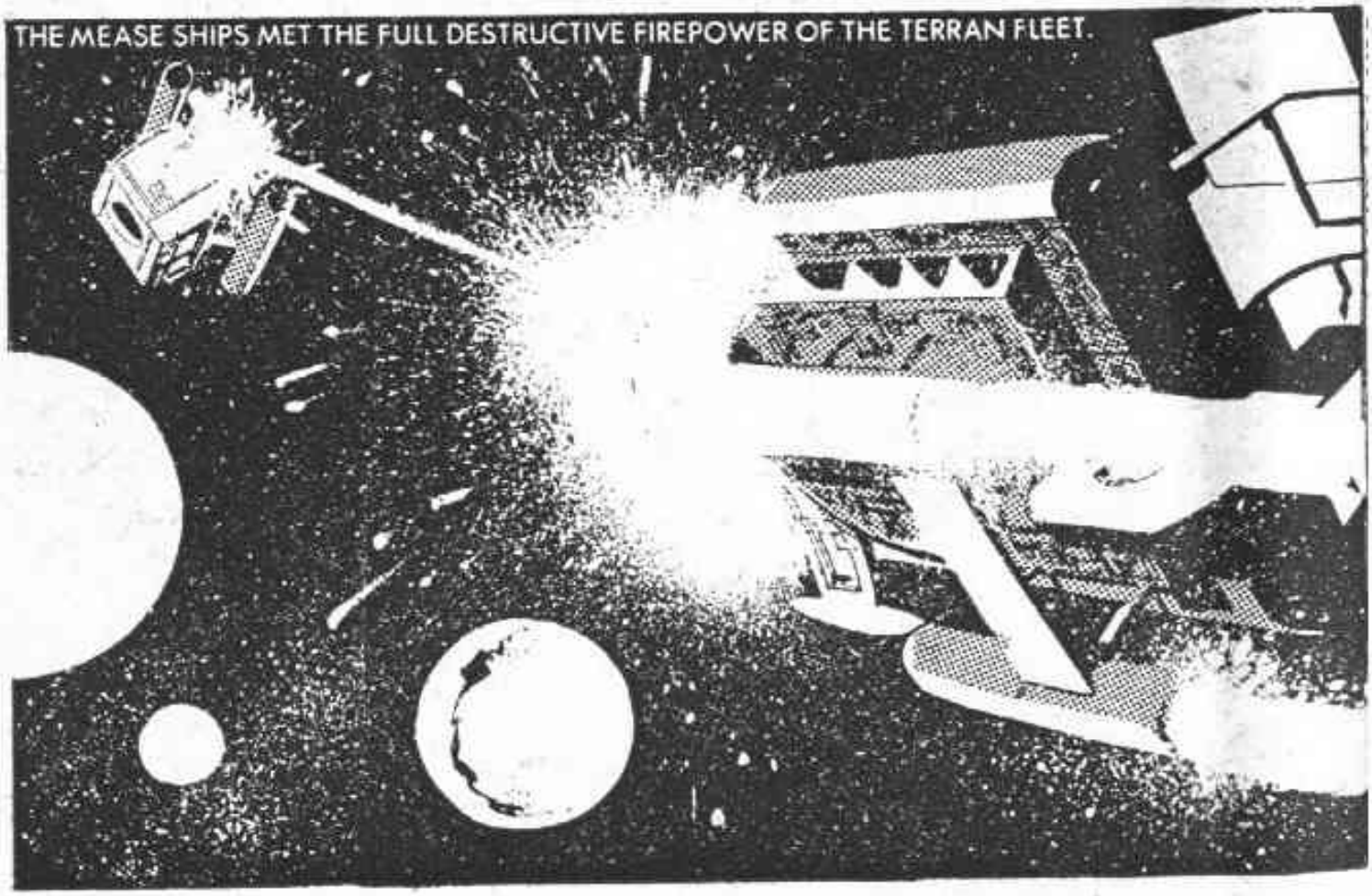

HADRON DIPPED HIS CRAFT INTO THE METEORITES.
WHEN I WAS CALLED IN TO ASSIST ON SILICON IV, I WAS ON THE WAY TO TEST A MICRO-MOONSPLITTER. I'VE CONNECTED IT TO THE TRACTOR BEAM . . . LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS.


HADRON AIMED AT A METEORITE.


THE MOONSPLITTER CAUSED PARTIAL MOLECULAR DISINTEGRATION AND TURNED THE ROCK INTO A CLOUD OF DUST.
IT WORKS!


THE PURSUING MEASE WERE CAUGHT IN A LETHAL CLOUD OF SHATTERED PARTICLES.

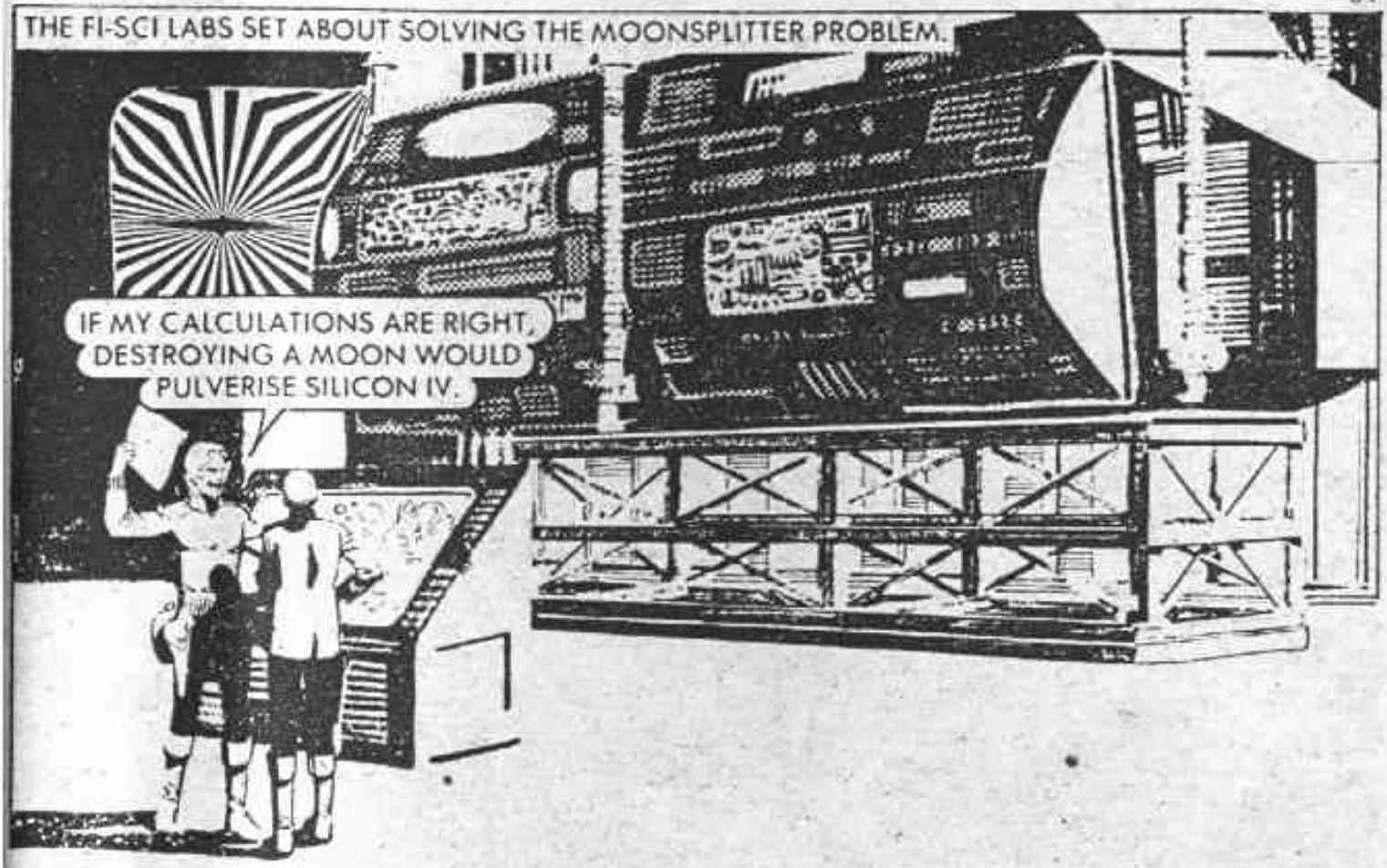

THE TERRAN RESERVE FLEET ARRIVED —
CONGRATULATIONS FI-SCI. WE'LL FINISH OFF WHAT'S LEFT.

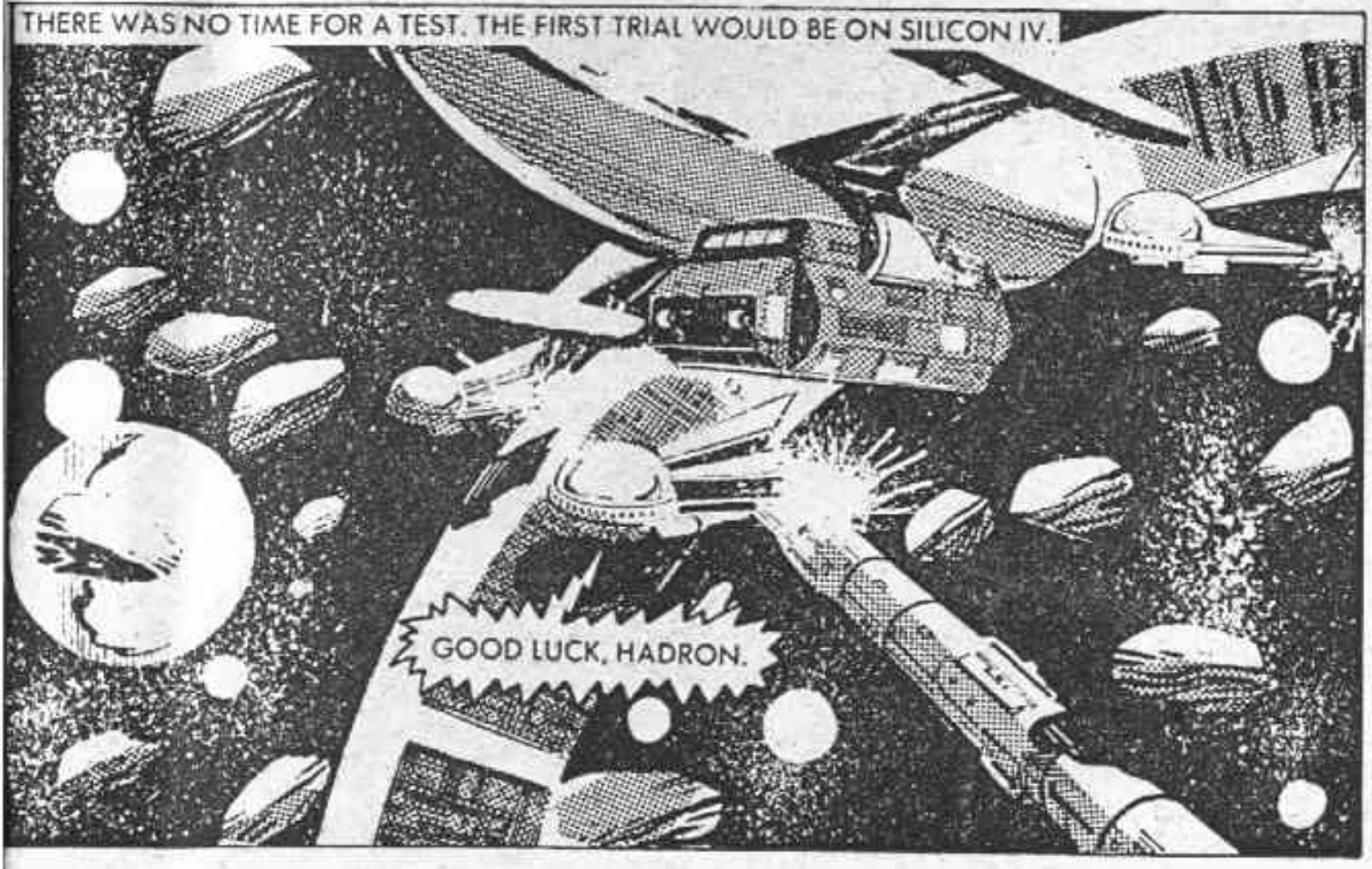

THE MEASE SHIPS MET THE FULL DESTRUCTIVE FIREPOWER OF THE TERRAN FLEET.

MEANWHILE, HADRON AND LARZ HAD REACHED THE WELL-HIDDEN FI-SCI BATTLE BASE.
ATTENTION! REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO WAR COUNCIL MEETING!
THE TERRAN-FEDERATION WAR COUNCIL WAS ASSEMBLED.
WE NEED A FRONTAL BOMBARDMENT OF EARTHQUAKE PROPORTIONS. GIVE ME EVERY MAN ON STATION AND I'LL OBLITERATE THE MEASE BASE.

FI-SCI ARE WORKING ON A LARGER VERSION OF THE MOONSPLITTER TO CREATE EARTHQUAKES. UNFORTUNATELY IT WON'T WORK IN SILICON IV'S WEAK ATMOSPHERE, BUT GIVE US TIME AND WE'LL MAKE IT WORK.

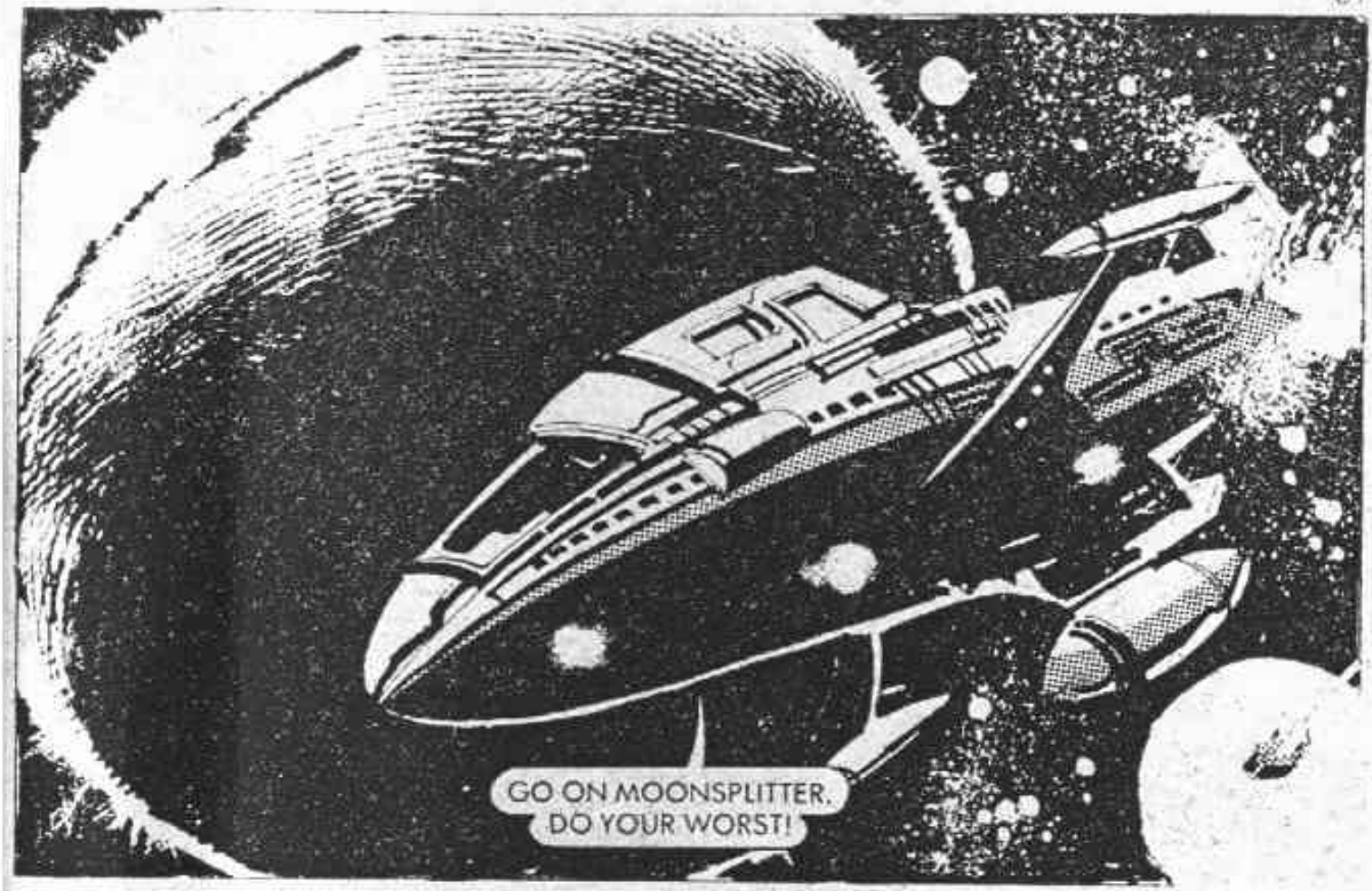
WE HAVE LOST TOO MANY MEN. I RULE THAT FI-SCI MAKE THE NEXT ATTEMPT BY THE END OF THE NEXT CYCLE. FAILING THAT, IT IS ANOTHER INFANTRY ASSAULT.


THE FI-SCI LABS SET ABOUT SOLVING THE MOONSPLITTER PROBLEM.
IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE RIGHT, DESTROYING A MOON WOULD PULVERISE SILICON IV.

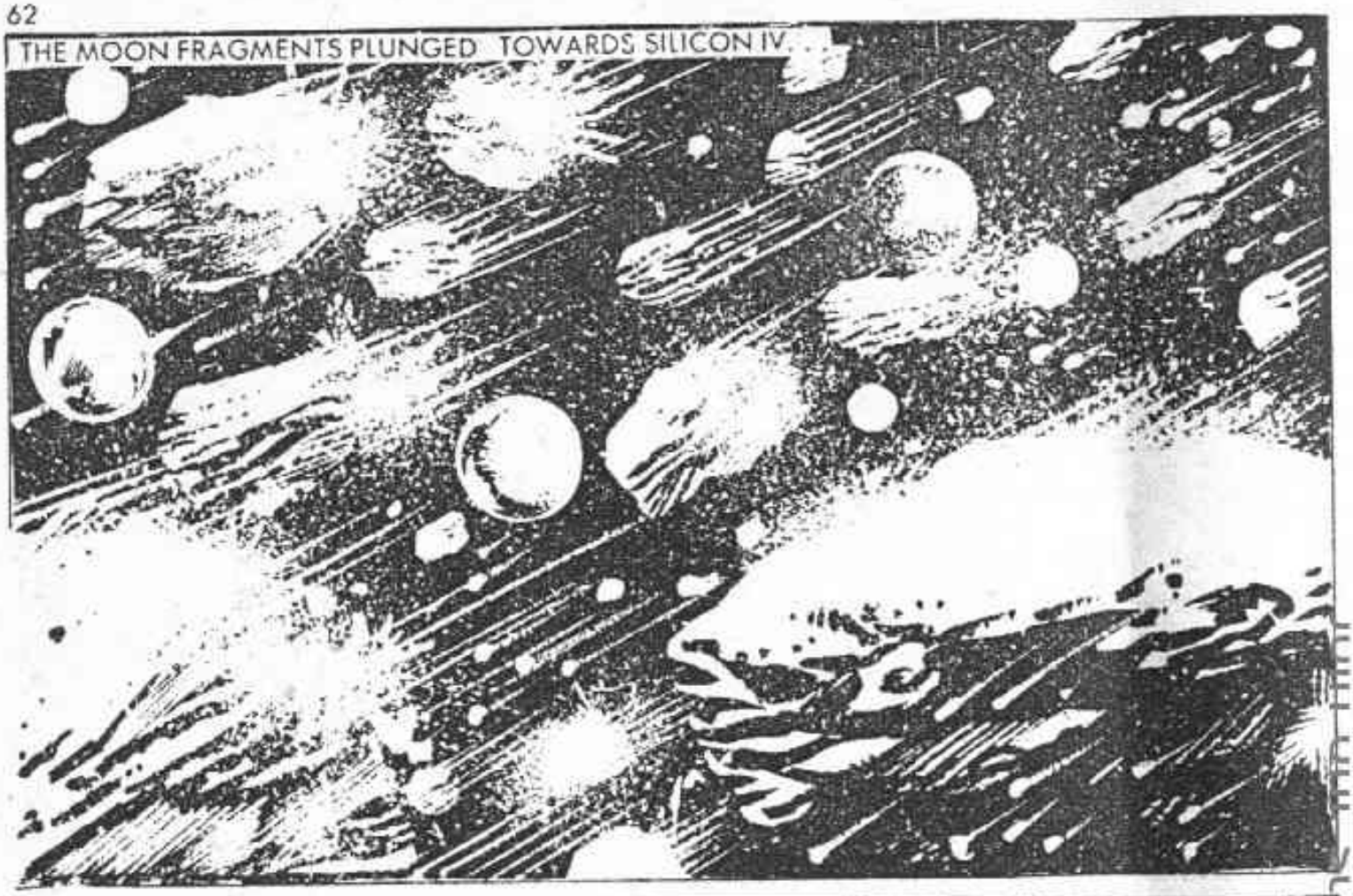

THERE WAS NO TIME FOR A TEST. THE FIRST TRIAL WOULD BE ON SILICON IV.
GOOD LUCK, HADRON.

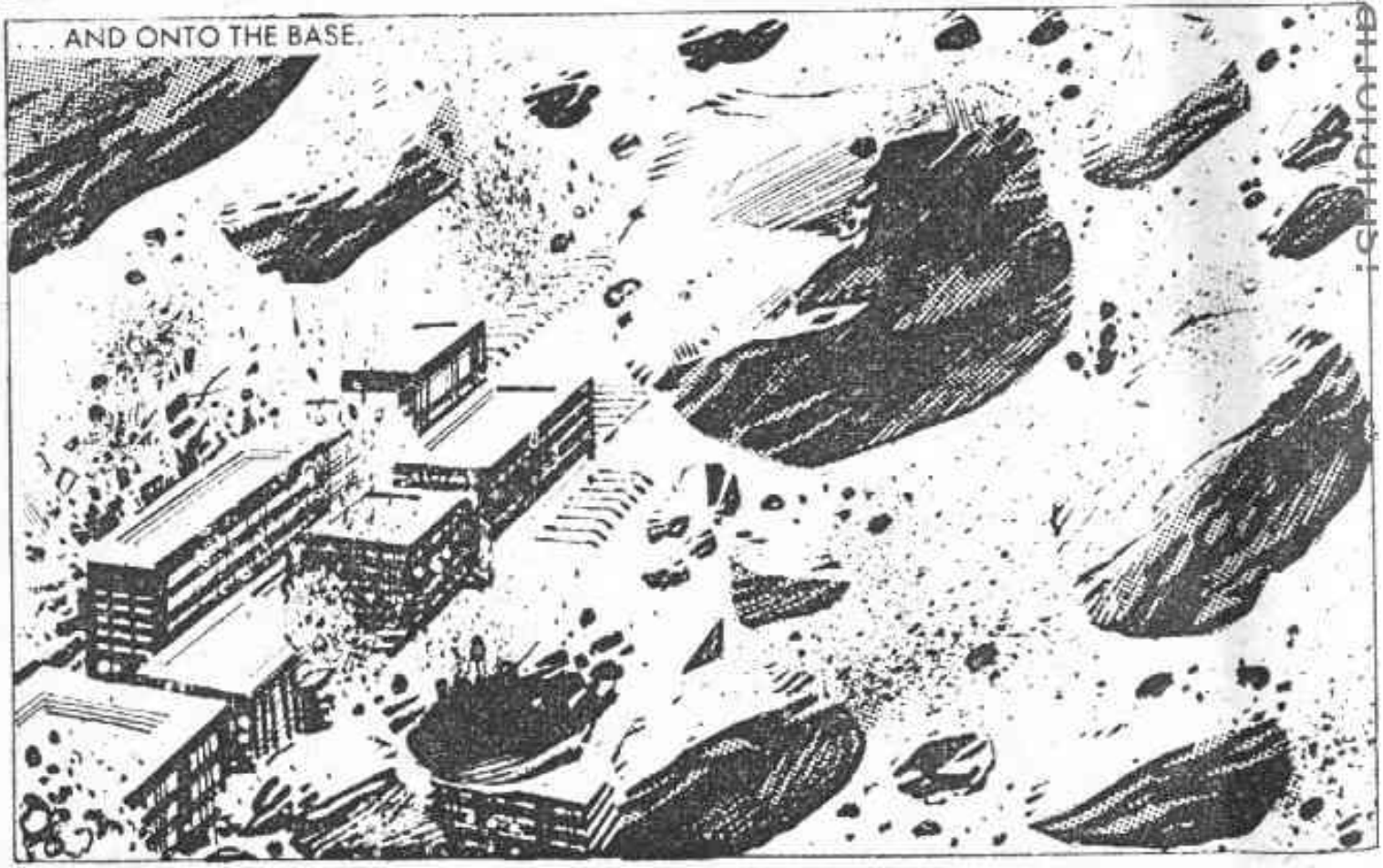
AFTER A HYPER SPEED JOURNEY.
HERE GOES AN UNTESTED WEAPON. ON A MISSION THAT NEEDS MICRO-SEC ACCURACY FOR ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS — IT'S A TYPICAL FI-SCI JOB!

THE ESCORTING TERRAN FLEET GAVE HADRON THE UNINTERRUPTED RUN TOWARDS THE INNER MOON OF SILICON IV.
MOONSPLITTER ON TARGET AND WITHIN CRITICAL TIME WINDOW!

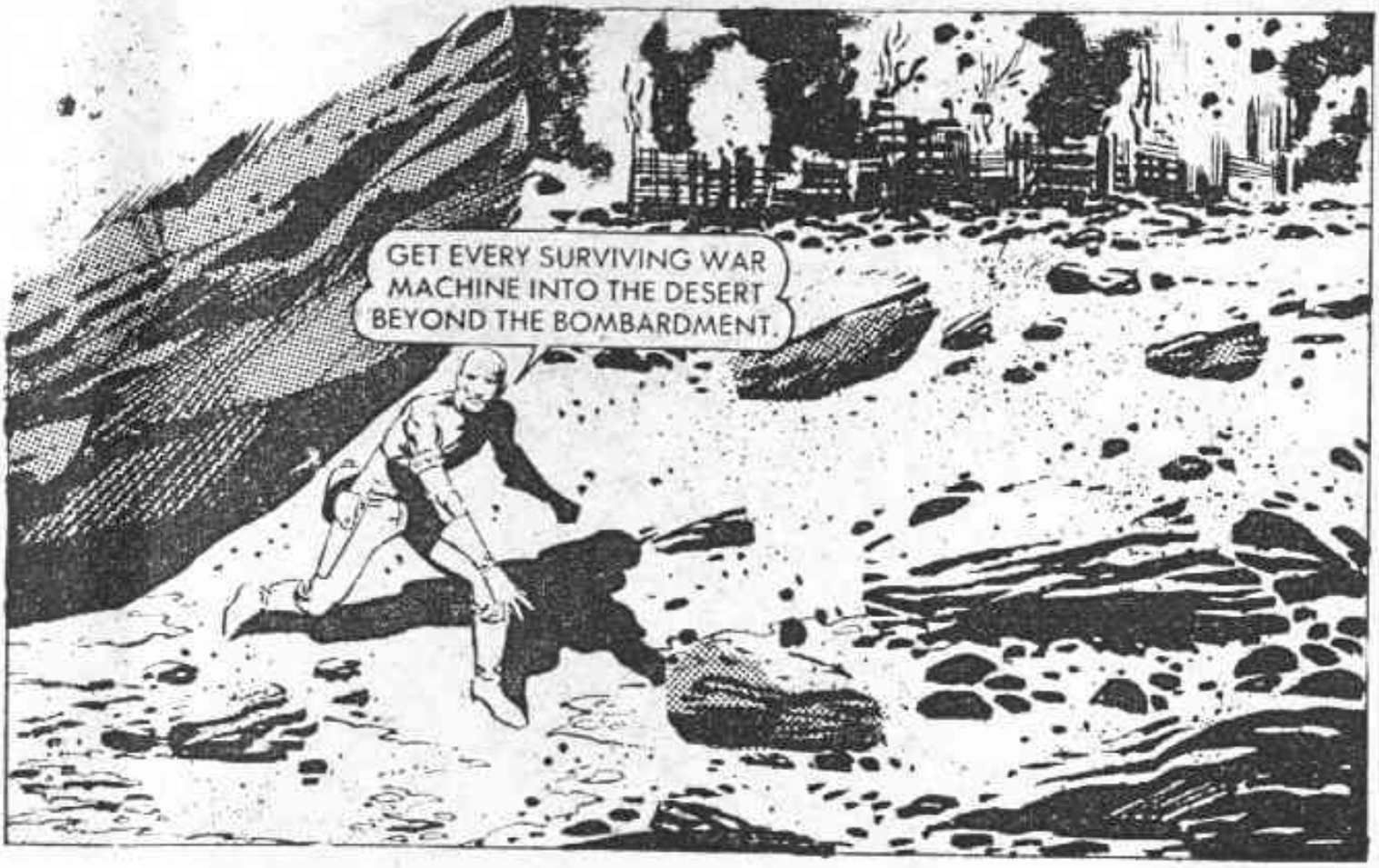

GO ON MOONSPLITTER. DO YOUR WORST!

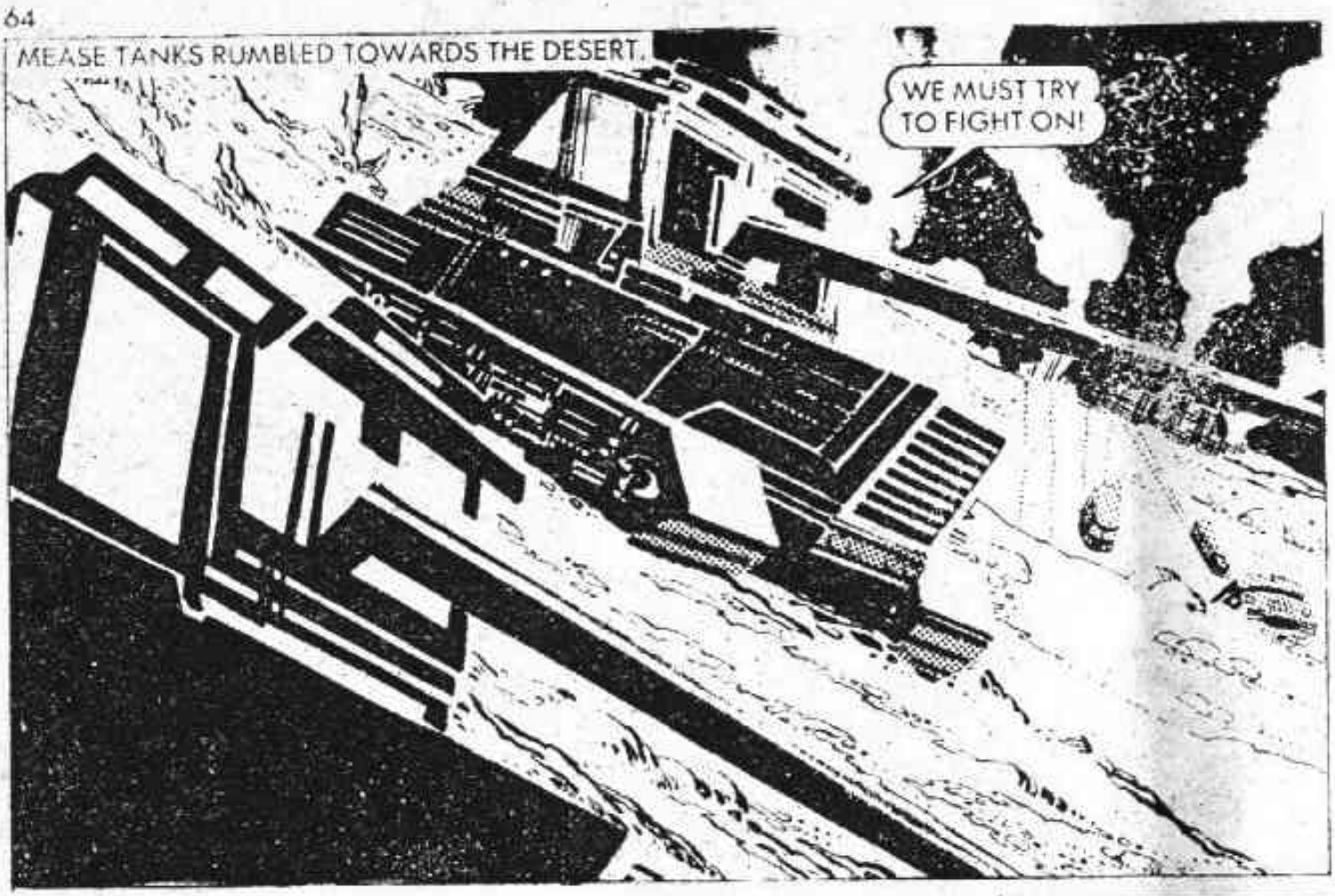
STAGE ONE ACHIEVED. THE REST DEPENDS ON THE FORCE OF GRAVITY.

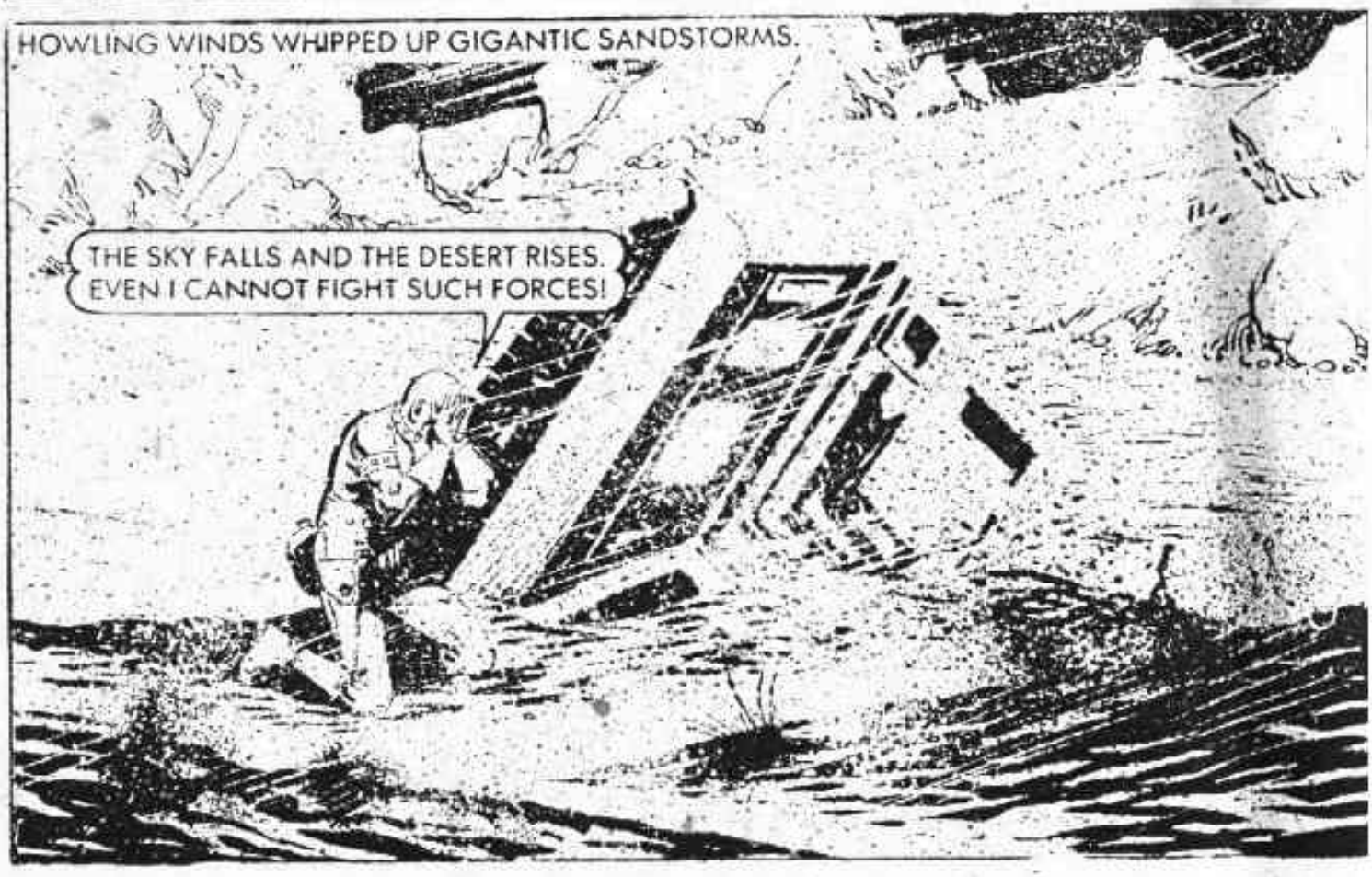

THE MOON FRAGMENTS PLUNGED TOWARDS SILICON IV.

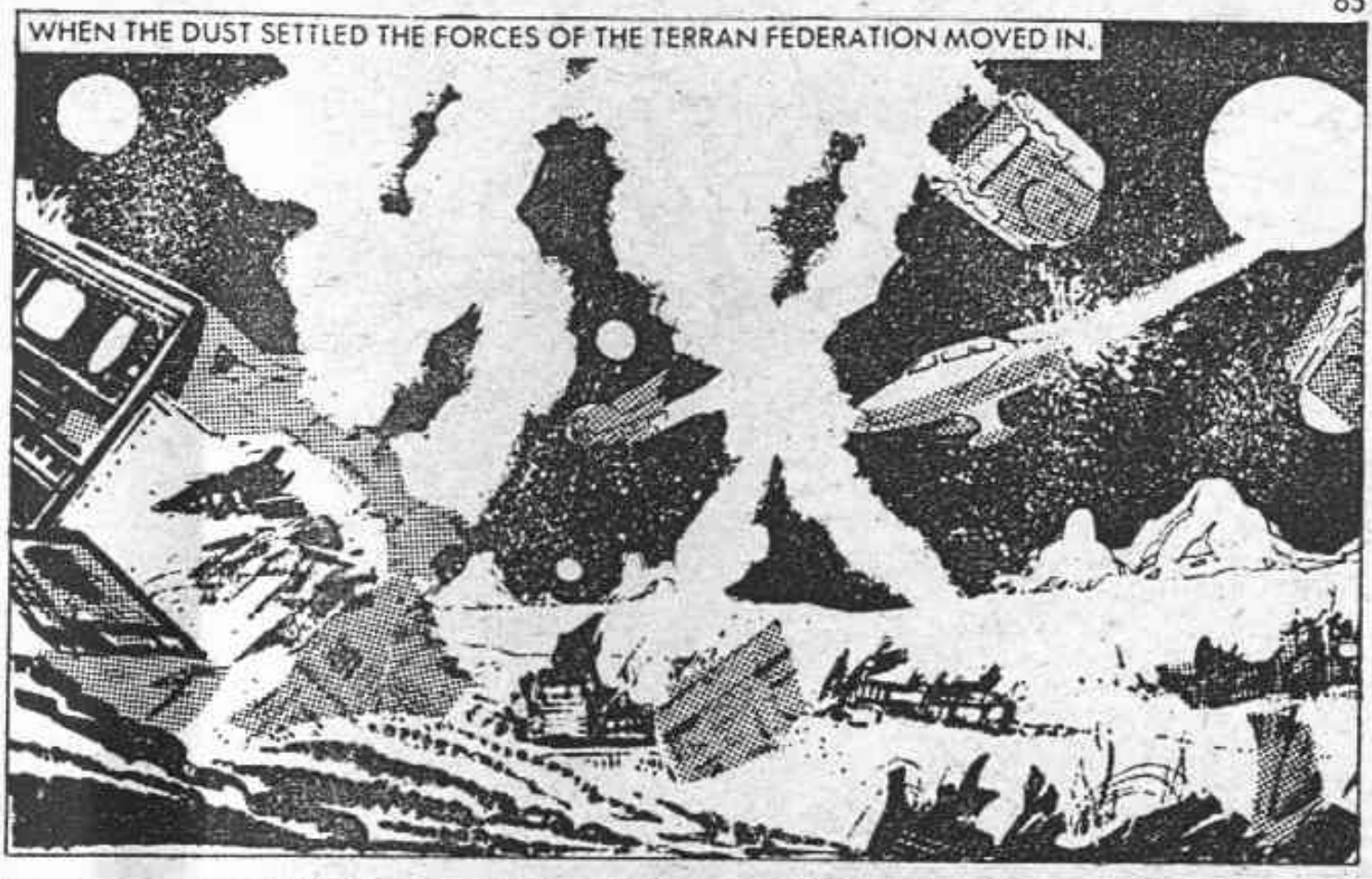

. . . AND ONTO THE BASE.

THE FORCE FIELD HAS COLLAPSED!


GET EVERY SURVIVING WAR MACHINE INTO THE DESERT BEYOND THE BOMBARDMENT.

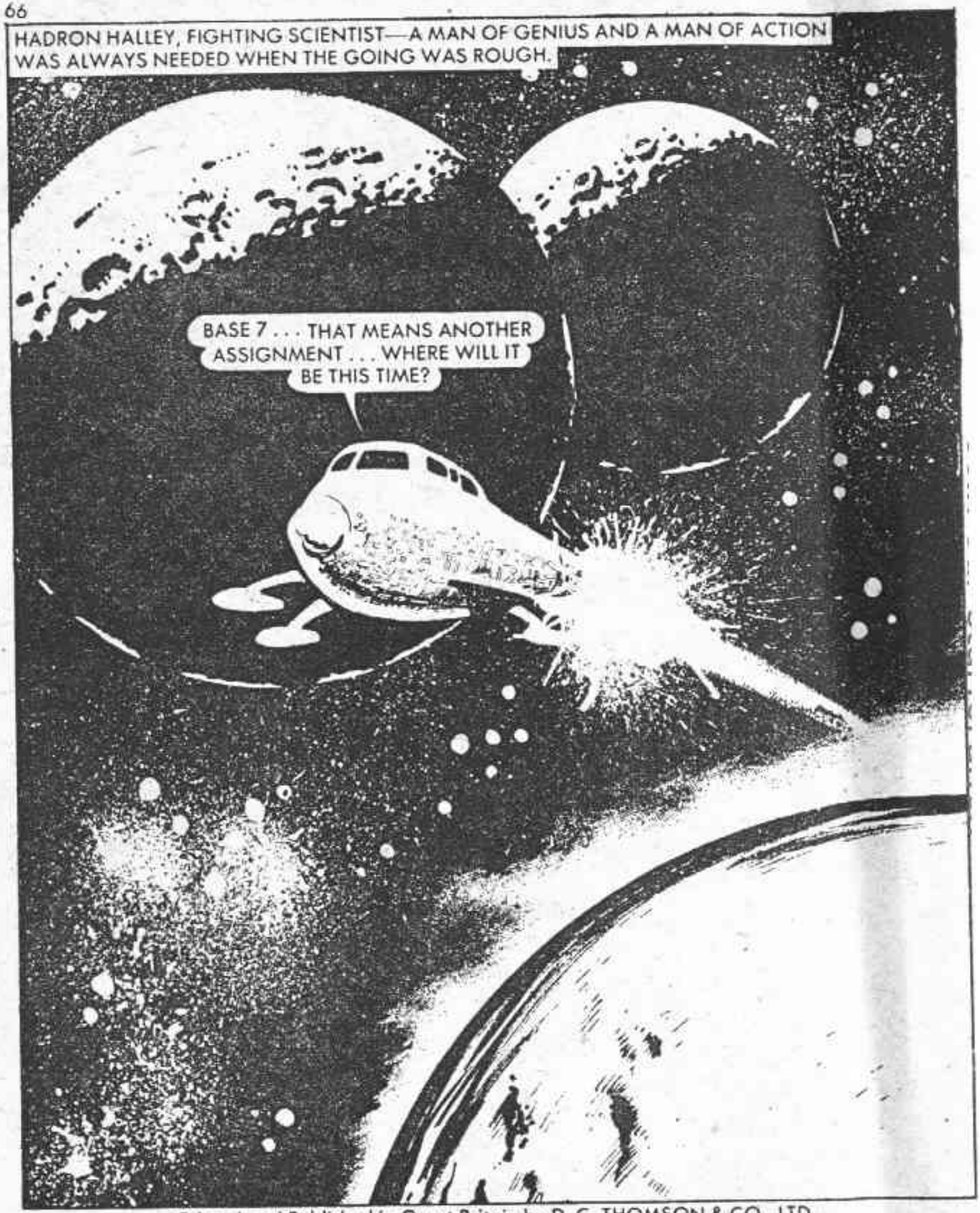

MEASE TANKS RUMBLED TOWARDS THE DESERT.
WE MUST TRY TO FIGHT ON!


HOWLING WINDS WHIPPED UP GIGANTIC SANDSTORMS.
THE SKY FALLS AND THE DESERT RISES. EVEN I CANNOT FIGHT SUCH FORCES!


WHEN THE DUST SETTLED THE FORCES OF THE TERRAN FEDERATION MOVED IN.

NOT A SINGLE MEASE LEFT TO FIGHT!

MESSAGE FOR FI-SCI HALLEY . . . REPORT TO BASE 7, ZONE 2121 FOR INSTRUCTIONS.


HADRON HALLEY, FIGHTING SCIENTIST—A MAN OF GENIUS AND A MAN OF ACTION WAS ALWAYS NEEDED WHEN THE GOING WAS ROUGH.
BASE 7 . . . THAT MEANS ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT . . . WHERE WILL IT BE THIS TIME?

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The first spaceflight lasting over 100 days was made by the Russian Soyuz 29. Cosmonauts Kovalyanok and Ivanchekov docked with the Salyut 6 space station on 12th June 1978, and remained on board for 139 days.